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# Actor Behaviour and Robustness of Industrial Symbiosis Networks: An Agent-Based Modelling Approach

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**Abstract:** Industrial Symbiosis Networks (ISNs) consist of firms that exchange residual materials and energy locally, in order to gain economic, environmental and/or social advantages. In practice, ISNs regularly fail when partners leave and the recovery of residual streams ends. Regarding the current societal need for a shift towards sustainability, it is undesirable that ISNs should fail. Failures of ISNs may be caused by actor behaviour that leads to unanticipated economic losses. In this paper, we explore the effect of these behaviours on ISN robustness by using an agent-based model (ABM). The constructed model is based on insights from both literature and participatory modelling in three real-world cases. It simulates the implementation of synergies for local waste exchange and compost production. The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) was used to model agent behaviour in time-dependent bilateral negotiations and synergy evaluation processes. We explored model behaviour with and without TPB logic across a range of possible TPB input variables. The simulation results show how the modelled planned behaviour affects the cash flow outcomes of the social agents and the robustness of the network. The study contributes to the theoretical development of industrial symbiosis research by providing a quantitative model of all ISN implementation stages, in which various behavioural patterns of entrepreneurs are included. It also contributes to practice by offering insights on how network dynamics and robustness outcomes are not only related to context and ISN design, but also to actor behaviour.

**Keywords:** Circular Economy, Industrial Symbiosis, Cooperative Networks, Agent-Based Modelling, Theory of Planned Behaviour, Eco-Oriented Behaviour

## ● Introduction

- 1.1** Within the context of the circular economy, self-organised Industrial Symbiosis Networks (further abbreviated as ISNs) have gained a lot of interest in science and practice as a means to increase social, environmental and economic sustainability (Ghisellini et al. 2015). Firms within ISNs exchange information, materials and energy to primarily create economic benefits, while also contributing to sustainability (Chertow 2000; Lombardi & Laybourn 2012).
- 1.2** ISNs consist of social entities and technical objects, such as waste streams, contracts and technologies, which are interdependent and evolving over time (Mannino et al. 2015). Technologies, business models, policies and actor behaviour affect the emergence, growth and decay of ISNs. Only a few types of ISNs can be successfully sustained (Yap & Devlin 2016) and for example, small networks are particularly vulnerable to falling apart (Tudor et al. 2007). The most successful ISNs are generally self-organising networks (Chertow & Ehrenfeld 2012).

- 1.3 Understanding the behaviour of firms improves the effectiveness of decision making in the transition towards circular systems (Verzijl et al. 2019). Behaviour of firms is therefore increasingly being studied in the context of ISNs, e.g., by Spekkink et al. (2016).
- 1.4 This study aims to explore under which conditions, how and to what extent the robustness of ISNs is influenced by actor behaviour during implementation of by-product exchanges in ISNs. It is built upon key elements that determine ISN dynamics and survival: this concerns all stages of industrial symbiosis implementation from the perspective of each firm in the network, including actor behaviour.
- 1.5 Since real-world experimentation is impracticable for exploring many parameters and actor behaviours, we have used agent-based modelling to explore this relationship. Compared to other methods, agent-based modelling is particularly suitable for studying complex cooperation dynamics among firms (Bonabeau 2002; Giannoccaro 2015). To properly capture real-world dynamics of interactions among ISN firm representatives, we have utilized a participatory modelling process in multiple real-world case studies.

## Background

- 1.6 Following the key elements indicated above, this section discusses the importance of each firm's perspective, the importance of modelling all stages of industrial symbiosis implementation and the importance of understanding how actor behaviour affects network performance.

### The firm's perspective

- 1.7 In self-organising industrial symbiosis, companies are the key players determining implementation dynamics (Tao et al. 2019). Each company plays at least one, but possibly more roles, such as waste supplier or processor (Mulder et al. 2018). Economic costs and benefits firstly accrue to the firms, and then to the network (Chertow 2000). When costs for individual firms are too high, or their benefits too low, they tend to pull out, resulting in a higher probability for other firms to leave the network. This failure phenomenon has a serious negative impact on survival probabilities of ISNs (Wang et al. 2017; Zeng et al. 2013). ISN dynamics are strongly determined by the decisions of individual firms (Tao et al. 2019). Hence, reasoning from the individual firm's perspective is crucial to shape ISNs towards a robust state.

### Modelling all ISN implementation stages

- 1.8 The literature suggests that the development of ISNs should be considered as a process based on broad economic, environmental and social aspects (Chertow & Ehrenfeld 2012; Lambert & Boons 2002). Based on the experience of ISN firms, Tao et al. (2019) developed such a broad ISN implementation framework from the perspective of firms. According to this framework, ISN firms go through the following stages: [1] awareness, [2] planning, [3] negotiation, [4] implementation and [5] evaluation. Existing studies that model ISNs, however, address the implementation stages only partially. Zhu & Ruth (2013, 2014) explored ISN evolution under different external disruptions and institutional settings. Mantese & Amaral (2017, 2018) used an ABM to study ISN indicators. Bichraoui et al. (2013) explored several cooperation and learning scenarios in the context of ISNs. Albino et al. (2016) explored the role of contracts. These papers all touch upon ISN implementation stages 2, 4 and 5, excluding the awareness and negotiation stages. Zheng & Jia (2017) explore opportunities for closing loops through using innovation diffusion theory in their model. This work includes the awareness stage but excludes negotiation.
- 1.9 Some existing ABMs regarding ISN development include negotiation but exclude other stages such as the awareness and/or evaluation stage. Examples of these studies are the energy system model by Batten (2009), the industrial coal system model by Gang et al. (2014), the biogas network model of Yazan et al. (2018), the strategic cooperation model by Yazan et al. (2020), and the construction material recycling network model by Knoeri et al. (2014).

### Actor behaviour

- 1.10 The behaviour of actors in firms plays an important role in ISN formation, development and survival. Among others, Krueger Jr. et al. (2000) show that representatives of firms that engage in industrial symbiosis act as

entrepreneurs and tend to behave in a planned and informed way. The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) proposes a model that describes how individual actors can make informed decisions (Ajzen 1991). In TPB, actors show a behaviour which is described by three variables: the Attitude (abbreviated as *A*), the belief of other actors' approval called the Subjective Norm (*SN*), and the perception of being able to implement their intentions, the Perceived Behavioural Control (*PBC*). According to Ajzen (1991), the Behavioural Intention (*BI*) of an actor, encapsulates *PBC*, *A* and *SN*. In addition, *BI* is an indicator of behavioural performance (*B*), if the behaviour can be decided as planned (Ajzen 1991). TPB is regarded as a significant predictor of entrepreneurial intentions and behaviour (Iakovleva & Kolvereid 2009; Kautonen et al. 2013), and has therefore been used in many studies to clarify this behaviour (e.g., Iakovleva & Kolvereid 2009; van Asselt et al. 2012). It is also used to study the firm's efforts to take environmental measures (Sánchez-Medina et al. 2014), and to explore the firm's readiness towards the circular economy (Singh et al. 2017). Ghali et al. (2017) show that TPB can be used to model the development of self-organised industrial symbiosis as randomly pre-defined synergies between pairs of actors.

## Knowledge gap, study objectives and contribution

- 1.11 Interest in the effect of actor behaviour on the ISN evolution is growing among ISN practitioners and researchers. Echoing the recommendations in research by Ghali et al. (2017), there is a need for comprehensive models that enable us to study ISN dynamics and failure mechanisms from both behavioural as well as contextual perspectives.
- 1.12 Our study brings together theory from the fields of behavioural sciences and industrial symbiosis into an agent-based model (ABM). Since ISNs involve real world stakeholders, the ABM is not only grounded on literature findings, but also on discussions with stakeholders in our case studies to increase the realism and verifiability of the model narrative, the chosen variables and inputs. Thus, we show how an agent-based modelling and simulation approach allows us to study the effect of behaviour across all ISN implementation stages of Tao et al. (2019).

## ● Conceptualising a Model Using Case Studies

- 2.1 We executed three in-depth case studies with stakeholders in ISNs in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Each case involves the exchange and processing of organic waste within collectives of companies. Organic waste treatment is particularly interesting for our study, since it entails a changing seasonal supply quantity, physical degradation of the waste, and a heterogeneous chemical composition. This all imposes a dynamic supply in terms of quantity and suitability for the transformation process from waste to product. In each initiative, the participants not only wanted to know how their waste could be turned into valuable resources, they also wanted to know to what extent the behaviour of potential partners in the ISN would increase or decrease the robustness of the ISN.
- 2.2 The first case involves a large-scale symbiosis network of around 700 hectares of agricultural area, situated directly in the polders at the outskirts of Amsterdam. The participating companies consist of 16 firms, such as small-scale arable farmers, livestock farmers, fruit growers, gardeners, allotment gardens, hospitality businesses, and offices in a nearby business park. The publicly owned land is maintained by companies in the area. Annually, thousands of tonnes of organic material, mainly grass, reed and leaves, are removed from the area as waste. The companies are members of a business association, which aims for sustainable entrepreneurship. Some prominent members of the association set up a composting collective during the time we performed our research. Since then, the collective allows for the storage and processing of 600 m<sup>3</sup> of organic materials (Mulder et al. 2018).
- 2.3 The second case involves a small-scale urban agriculture area focusing on sustainable food production and recreation. The area is situated in a former sports park area at the north side of Amsterdam. Along with other firms, small scale hospitality businesses, urban farmers, a beer brewer, a consultancy firm, a beekeeper, a carpenter and a day care centre are in the area. The firms are part of a foundation that aims to be an example of circular economy practices. In the area, yearly tens of tonnes of organic materials, consisting mainly of leafy greens, pruning residuals, and brewers' grains leave the area. Some small compost heaps have been set up to handle these residual streams and to produce soil improvement material for their own use (Mulder et al. 2018).
- 2.4 The third case involves a business park in the former wharf area at the north side of Amsterdam's waterfront, the IJ. In the area, a foundation represents a few hundreds of SMEs in the creative and hospitality industry. A

smaller number of companies is also represented by an energy cooperation, aiming for local and renewable energy production. A few years ago, the foundation performed a study to explore the possibilities of setting up a network for anaerobic digestion (or bio-digestion), to process the organic residuals into biogas. However, the biogas network never took off. The involved participants considered the network to be too small to establish a robust network (Mulder et al. 2020).

- 2.5** In all cases, we gathered information about waste streams, needs and motivations through stakeholder interviews. In the first two case studies, we developed a serious game in which stakeholders played their own role in the network, and in which they had to set up new ways of connecting residual waste streams with their needs. We used the game and interview data to create the model narrative, describing how stakeholder awareness was raised, how possible synergies were planned, how negotiations took place, how deals were closed, and how the synergy was implemented (Mulder et al. 2018). The game was also used to cross-check the interview data concerning demand and supply, which was used to parameterize the simulation. We iteratively conceptualized, formalized, implemented and verified the model, using the participatory method as proposed in earlier work (Lange et al. 2017). In addition to the case study data, we used literature regarding the ISN implementation stages, bilateral negotiation tactics and planned behaviour to set up the model narrative, which was calibrated with stakeholders, market experts and peers in participatory workshops and interviews. Data from the first case study was used to define the moderating variables for this paper's experiments regarding TPB.

## ● Model

- 3.1** In this section, we briefly present our conceptual model and the agent-based model. An extensive description using the ODD protocol by Grimm et al. (2020), including source codes, flowcharts, input data, results and analysis information can be found in the repository (Lange et al. 2021): <https://doi.org/10.25937/dt95-xk35>.

### Conceptual model

- 3.2** Figure 1 shows an overview of the conceptual model and how it is related to the ISN implementation stages as proposed by Tao et al. (2019).

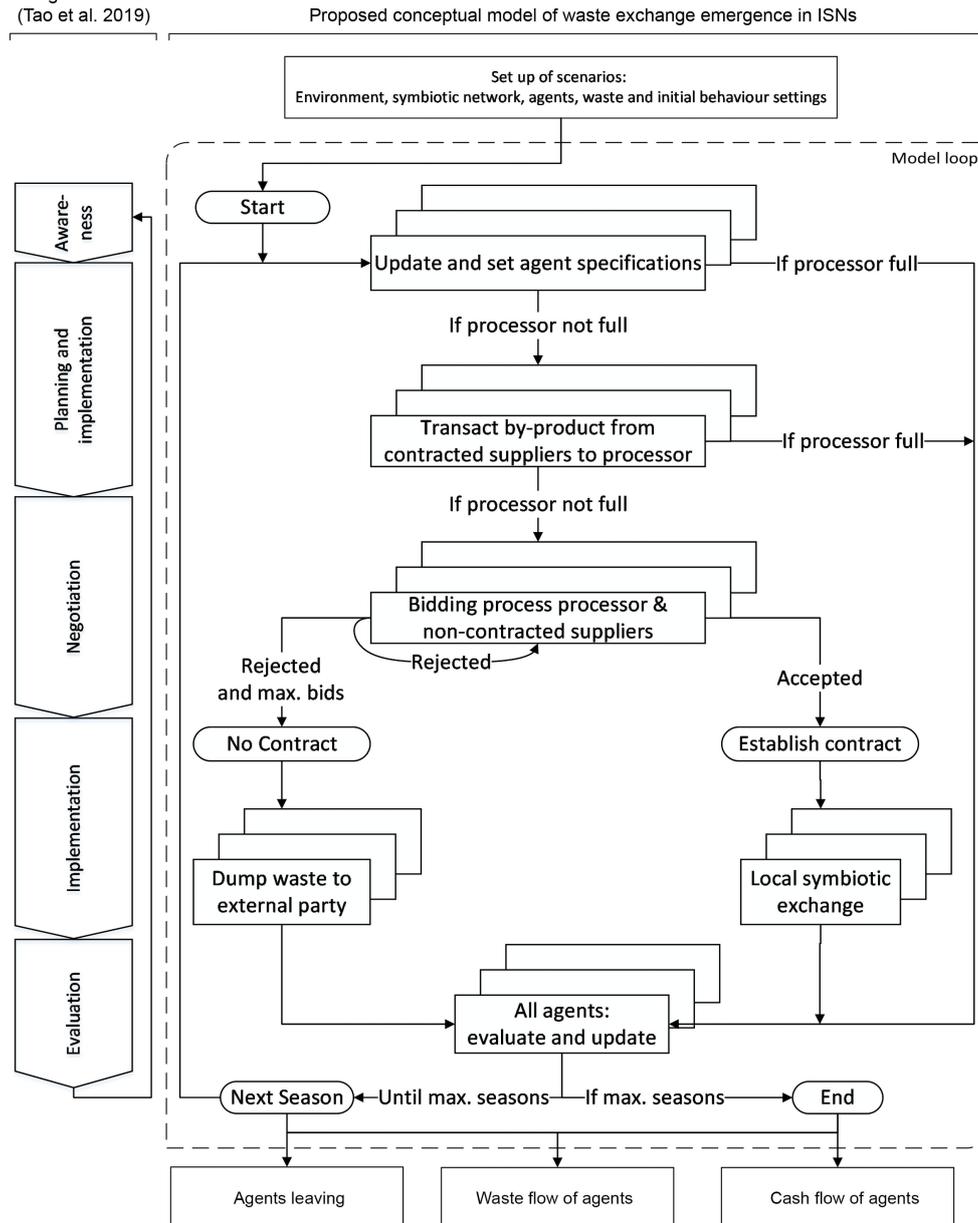


Figure 1: Overview of the model (right) compared to the industrial symbiosis implementation stages of Tao et al. (2019) (left).

- 3.3** The case studies involved local exchanges and processing as opposed to bringing waste to a centralised incinerator. Hence, three types of social agents are implemented in the model: the waste suppliers (WS), the local waste processor (WP) and the external waste incinerator (WI). The social agents interact during (de-)implementation of symbiosis.
- 3.4** The awareness stage consists of waste creation by the suppliers, and determination of the value of the waste. The planning stage comprises composting and selling compost by the waste processor. In addition, the suppliers that already have a contract with the local processor deliver the waste according to the contract. An important restriction in the model is the maximum capacity of the local processor, which may for example be imposed by a hygiene policy. If the processor is not full yet, the waste processor agent invites supplier agents to negotiate for a new contract. If an agreement is concluded, this new contract directly results in waste exchanges between the waste supplier and the processor during the implementation stage. Another important factor is *waste quality*, in our model defined as “the fitness to process the waste”. Only when the waste quality is high

enough, the processor agent decides to use the waste for composting. In the final stage, evaluation, the waste supplier agents and the processor agent evaluate the outcomes and update their technical and behavioural parameters.

### 3.5 Model assumptions (based on the cases):

- Each social agent represents one actor role. This means that in our model, the actors cannot be represented by different agents.
- Negotiations are bilateral.
- Communication between suppliers and processor is honest and transparent.
- Both parties agree upon the quality and quantity of the waste. However, the value of the waste is perceived differently.
- There are no intruders from outside the ISN. Hence, there is no network growth.
- WP and WS are allowed to leave the network. They do so, when they consider the operational or economic results of symbiosis to be insufficient. External factors, such as bankruptcies, do not play a role in leaving the network.
- Since the physical distances are less than 5 km, we assume that these distances are negligible. Transportation costs or other boundary conditions that may occur by logistics are therefore not modelled.
- After breaking open a fixed contract with WI, the waste supplier is allowed to negotiate and establish a contract with WP at any time.
- Transaction of waste to WI and WP is unhindered and flawless according to the contract. The contract between WS and WP allows WS to deliver a flexible amount of waste each season, up to a maximum agreed amount of waste. This maximum amount is based upon the amount of accepted waste at the time the contract was established.
- When a contract is established, WP always accepts the agreed amount of waste. Based on capacity and waste quality WP may redirect the waste to the incinerator.
- If WS is able to deliver more waste than agreed upon in the contract with WP, WS may enter another round of negotiations to try to establish an additional contract.
- After the contract between WS and WP expires, WS has to renegotiate a new contract with WP.
- Contracts with WI make use of the waste market price.
- Contracts with WI do not include a maximum agreed amount of waste.
- All ripe compost is sold at a fixed market price.

**3.6** The model allows for simulating this process with or without Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) algorithms to study the effect of planned behaviour. The behaviour of interest in this particular case is described according to Ajzen's TACT elements (Ajzen 2002, p.2): *implementing a symbiotic link to exchange waste for composting during the next season(s), preferably for the creation of one's own economic benefits*. Figure 2 shows how the different TPB elements should be interpreted for this case.

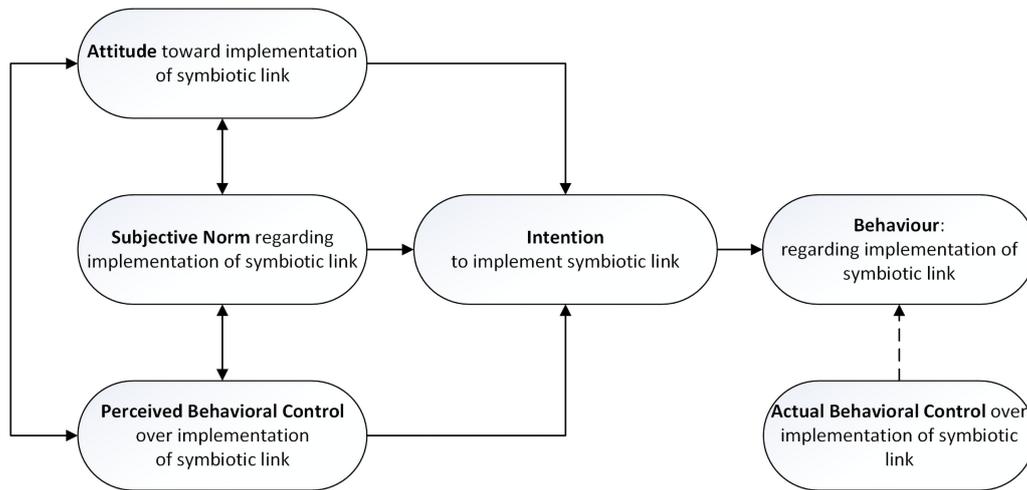


Figure 2: Use of TPB in the context of this study.

**3.7** Based upon interviews with case study participants and from the literature, i.e., Chertow (2000), we assumed that symbiosis primarily aims to create competitive advantage. Thus, the model focuses on the effect of TPB on the economic results, and vice versa, i.e., the effect of evaluating the economic outcomes on the behaviour of interest. In the model, each agent's attitude, control belief and subjective norm value therefore affects the intention and actual behaviour of actors during the negotiation stage. In addition, the individual economic outcomes are assumed to influence the agent's attitude, control beliefs and subjective norm during the evaluation stage.

## ● Agent-Based Model

**4.1** Based on the conceptual model, the ABM was constructed and verified according to van Dam et al. (2013, p. 98).

**4.2** Given the *purpose* of this study, the TPB parameters can be adjusted freely to test different types of agent behaviour, and we also allow for model runs without this TPB implementation. The waste incinerator (WI) acts as the infinite sink of all waste flows in the external environment, so the social behaviour of WI is not included.

**4.3** The *model dynamics and outcomes* are also affected by contextual factors and organisational design (Lange et al. 2017). The organisational design is modelled as technological and operational parameters, such as quality control, quantity control, or contract conditions.

**4.4** *Performance indicators* in this study are the cash flows of WS and WP, and the network survival. Based on the experience of the case study participants, we considered a network to be robust, when it sustains for a minimum of 10 years.

**4.5** Waste supplier and processor agents that leave the network may cause a network to fail. Agents leave the network after many cumulative negative cash flows. The processor agent can also leave the network when the input is too low for half a year. Cumulative losses shape agent memory in our model: when an agent makes profit due to local waste exchanges, the chance of leaving reduces over time, since the agent 'remembers' that it previously made profit.

**4.6** The recursive model narrative, based on the implementation stages in Figure 1, and including the TPB implementation, is as follows:

- Awareness stage: waste suppliers first produce waste and determine the waste value. This depends on the type of organisational design, which is set either to *waste-as-waste*, or *waste-as-by-product*. When waste is treated as waste, the local waste value is determined by the global waste market price, the waste quality and the local availability during the season. We assume that when waste is treated as a by-product, it is seen as a source of income for the supplier. In that case, the price of a substitute product is used instead of the waste market price and efforts are made by WS to increase the waste quality, resulting in an overall increase of economic value. Waste quality and quantity are set as normally distributed values based on the case studies.
- Planning & implementation stage:

- The waste processor produces compost and sells it, see Equation 1:

$$CF_{WP} = (\sum M_{CB} * P_{Compost}) - (\sum M_{CB} * \frac{C_{Proc}}{A_{IO}}) \quad (1)$$

in which  $CF_{WP}$  is the cash flow for WP,  $P_{Compost}$  is the market price for compost per mass unit [Euro/tonne],  $\sum M_{CB}$  is the sum of masses of ripe compost batches (heaps),  $\sum C_{Proc}$  is the processing costs per mass unit [Euro/tonne] and  $A_{IO}$  is the mass input-output ratio of conversion process. Each period, the compost heap ripens. Since part of the mass in the composting process is turned into gasses that are emitted into the air (Dhamodharan et al. 2019), the mass of the heap decreases according to a set input-output ratio. When the age of the compost batch (CB) is equal to the retention time, the batch is ripe and sold at the market price.

- Transaction processes from contracted suppliers. WS is allowed to deliver less waste than agreed upon in the contract, but not more. Therefore, WP asks contracted suppliers if and how much they can deliver according to the contract. WP then checks the quality of the waste offered. To do so, WP compares the waste of the contracted suppliers, by calculating which transaction leads to the highest economic waste stock value as perceived by WP ( $WV_{WP}$ ).  $WV_{WP}$  is determined by the actual waste quality ( $Q_{WS}$ ) and quantity ( $M_{WS}$ ) each WS can offer at that point in time, see Equation 2:

$$WV_{WP} = Q_{WS} * M_{WS} \quad (2)$$

The contracted supplier with the highest  $WV_{WP}$  is allowed to make the first transaction. Next, the contracted WS with the second highest  $WV_{WP}$  is allowed to transact waste to WP. This process continues until all contracted suppliers deliver their waste according to the contract. The cash flow for WS is then calculated, see the transaction process equations in Table 1. Revenues and avoided costs are calculated as relative cash flows, compared to bringing waste to the incinerator. During model setup, the cash flows are set at 0.

Table 1: Cash flow equations during waste transaction for the two different organisational designs.

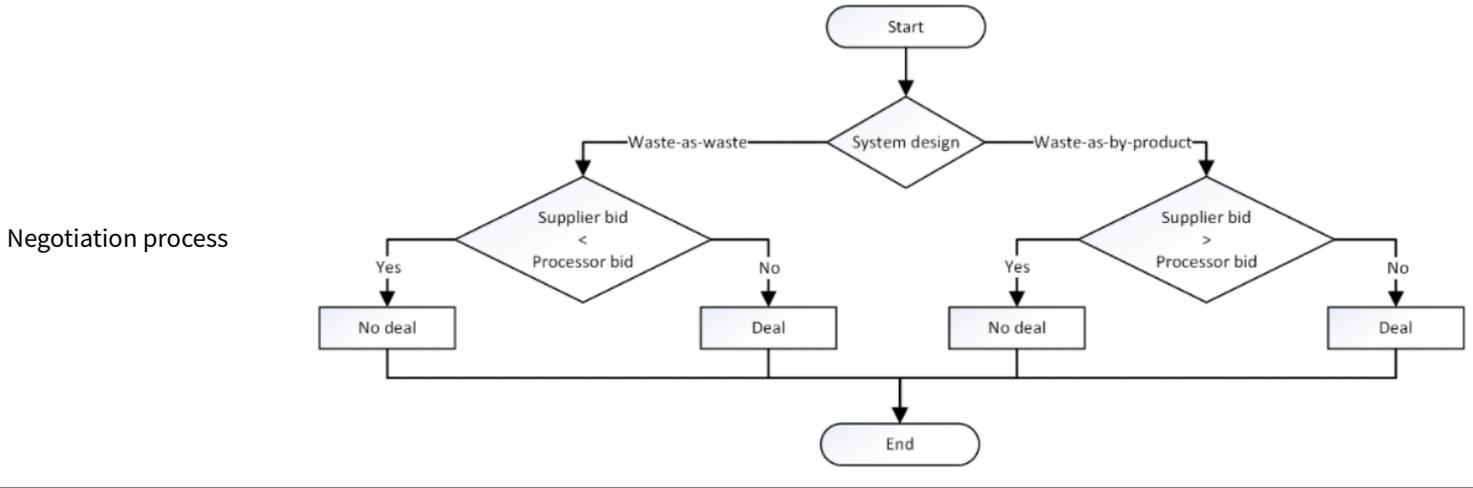
Agent	Organisational design	Contract with incinerator	Eq.nr.	Cash flow calculation
Waste processor	Waste-as-waste	WI payment per mass unit	(3)	$CF_{WP} = M_{WS} * P_{contract} - M_{WS} * P_{contract} * A_{IO} * (1 - RS_{WP}) + M_{WS,WP} * P_{waste} * (1 - CS_{WS}) - M_{WP,WI} * P_{waste}$
		WI payment per season	(4)	$CF_{WP} = M_{WS} * P_{contract} - M_{WS} * P_{contract} * A_{IO} * (1 - RS_{WP})$
	Waste-as-by-product	WI payment per mass unit	(5)	$CF_{WP} = -(M_{WS} * P_{contract}) - M_{WS} * P_{contract} * A_{IO} * (1 - RS_{WP}) + M_{WS,WP} * P_{waste} * (1 - CS_{WS}) - M_{WP,WI} * P_{waste}$
		WI payment per season	(6)	$CF_{WP} = -(M_{WS} * P_{contract}) - M_{WS} * P_{contract} * A_{IO} * (1 - RS_{WP})$
Waste supplier	Waste-as-waste	WI payment per mass unit	(7)	$CF_{WS} = -(M_{WS} * P_{contract}) + M_{WS} * P_{contract} * A_{IO} * (1 - RS_{WP}) + M_{WS,WP} * P_{waste} * CS_{WS}$
		WI payment per season	(8)	$CF_{WS} = -(M_{WS} * P_{contract}) + M_{WS} * P_{contract} * A_{IO} * (1 - RS_{WP})$
	Waste-as-by-product	WI payment per mass unit	(9)	$CF_{WS} = M_{WS} * P_{contract} + M_{WS} * P_{contract} * A_{IO} * (1 - RS_{WP}) + M_{WS,WP} * P_{waste} * CS_{WS}$
		WI payment per season	(10)	$CF_{WS} = M_{WS} * P_{contract} + M_{WS} * P_{contract} * A_{IO} * (1 - RS_{WP})$

In Table 1,  $A_{IO}$  is the processor mass input-output ratio,  $CF_{WP}$  is the cash flow of WP in Euros,  $CF_{WS}$  is the cash flow of WS in Euros,  $CS_{wS}$  is the cost share ratio assigned to WS [-],  $M_{WS}$  is the waste mass quantity from WS in tonnes,  $M_{WS,WP}$  is the waste mass flow from WS to WP in tonnes,  $M_{WP,WI}$  is the waste mass flow from WP to WI in tonnes,  $P_{contract}$  is the agreed price for local waste treatment per mass unit in Euros/tonnes,  $P_{waste}$  is the market price for waste treatment per mass unit in Euros/tonnes and  $RS_{wp}$  is the revenue share ratio assigned to WP [-].

- All transacted waste is accepted by WP. WS does not make (deliberate) mistakes in the delivery and WP does not reject any waste of contracted suppliers. However, not all accepted waste is necessarily used for processing. During the waste acceptance process, WP first makes two decisions:
    - \* WP determines whether the quality of the transacted waste exceeds a given threshold. If the quality is too low, redirect it to the waste incinerator (WI).
    - \* Next, WP determines whether its capacity is expected to be exceeded. WP only fills the compost heap up to the maximum capacity. If there is still some waste left, WP redirects it to WI.
  - At the end of this step, WP's cash flow is calculated, see the transaction process equations in Table 1. The revenues and avoided costs are calculated as relative cash flows, as these are compared to transactions with WI.
- Negotiation stage:
    - Based on its capacity, WP determines whether new suppliers are required. If so, WP checks which suppliers might potentially be interesting partners to negotiate with. The suppliers that are not bound to a fixed contract with the incinerator, are asked how much waste they have available, and at what quality. Again, WP determines which supplier is most suitable by calculating the potential economic value of the supplier's waste stock, see Equation 2.
    - A bilateral negotiation is started with the supplier with the best waste stock value. The negotiation process consists of two parties making alternating offers. Bidding occurs according to time-dependent negotiation, with a linear concession curve (Hou 2004). In the *waste-as-waste* design, the model treats the waste supplier as buyer, and the processor as seller of a waste collection service. In the *waste-as-by-product* design, the model treats the waste supplier as seller, and the processor as a buyer of resource materials, see Table 2.

Table 2: Different agent roles and model algorithms for the waste-as-waste and waste-as-by-product designs.

		<b>Waste-as-waste</b>	<b>Waste-as-by-product</b>
Waste-processor	Role	Seller (of waste management services)	Buyer (of resources for production process)
	Aim	Target price as high as possible	Target price as low as possible
Waste supplier	Role	Buyer (of waste management services)	Seller (of resources for production process)
	Aim	Target price as low as possible	Target price as high as possible



During negotiations, both buyer and seller determine their limit price, which is based on the best alternative to a negotiated agreement (BATNA). When TPB is turned on, the behaviour value ( $B$ ) modifies the limit price, see Figure 3 and Table 3. With  $B \geq 0.5$ , a negotiating agent behaves more in favour of the opponent, trying to positively influence the achievement of local waste exchanges. With  $B < 0.5$ , the agent negotiates more firmly, negatively influencing the achievement of local waste exchanges. The target price depends on the limit price. We assumed that the target price of sellers is 50% higher than the limit price, aiming for higher income. For buyers, the target price is assumed to be 50% lower than the limit price, aiming for lower purchasing costs.

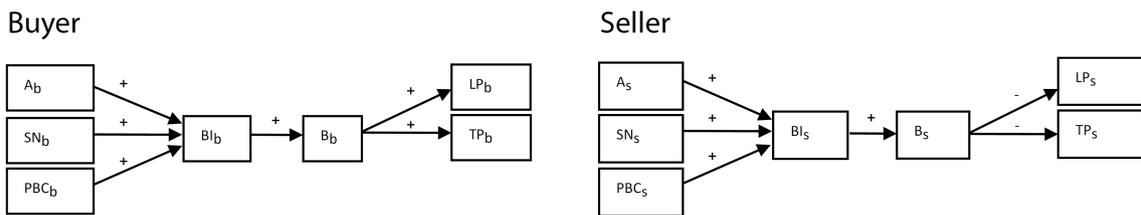


Figure 3: Influence of TPB-values on the limit prices (LP) and target prices (TP) of the buyer and the seller in the negotiation process.

Table 3: How the Theory of Planned Behaviour is integrated in the model's time-dependent negotiation

Eq.nr	Main variable	Code or equation	Values	Explanation
(11)	Behavioural Intention ( $BI$ )	$BI = (A * W_A) + (PBC * W_{PBC}) + (SN * W_{SN})$	$0 \leq A \leq 1;$ $0 \leq PBC \leq 1;$ $0 \leq SN \leq 1$	Inspired by Ajzen (2002)
(12)	Behaviour ( $B$ )	<p>If else <math>BI \geq 0.5</math>                      let A ((10 + random 11)/10)                      set B ((<math>A * (BI - 0.5)^2</math>) + 0.5)                      ]</p> <p>(                      let A-2                      set B ((<math>A * (BI - 0.5)^2</math>) + 0.5)                      )</p>	$0 \leq BI \leq 1$	<p>Sheeran (2002) points out that here is a difference between intentions and behaviour. To address this gap, Webb &amp; Sheeran (2006) showed that a medium-to-large change in intention, leads to a small-to-medium change in behaviour. A small change in intention hardly leads to behaviour change. Negative intentions are more correlated to negative behaviour, than positive intentions to positive behaviour. Therefore, we modelled the relationship between <math>BI</math> and <math>B</math> as a randomized quadratic equation for positive <math>BI</math> values and a quadratic equation for negative values.</p>
(13)	Buyer Limit Price ( $LP_B$ )	$LP_B = V_W + (V_W * (B_B - 0.5))$	$0 \leq B_B \leq 1$	<p><math>V_W</math>: Market value of waste or by-product (Euro/ tonne)  <math>B_B</math>: Behaviour value of buyer, inspired by Ajzen (1991)</p>
(14)	Buyer Target Price ( $TP_B$ )	$TP_B = LP_B - 0.5LP_B$		Assumption
(15)	Seller Limit Price ( $LP_S$ )	$LP_S = V_W - (V_W * (B_S - 0.5))$	$0 \leq B_S \leq 1$	$B_S$ : Behaviour value of seller, inspired by Ajzen (1991)
(16)	Seller Target Price ( $TP_S$ )	$TP_S = LP_S + 0.5LP_S$		Assumption

After the first bid, the opponent decides to accept or reject the offer by comparing it to its own bid. If there is no deal, both agents make a new offer, which is one step closer to the limit price. WS and WP continue to negotiate until either the maximum number of bids is reached, or a contract is established.

- The negotiation process is repeated for all potential WS partners, unless the compost heap is full.

• Implementation stage:

- When WP and WS reach an agreement, they establish a contract. The contract stipulates an agreed maximum waste delivery, price per mass unit and a contract duration.
- After establishing the contract, waste is transacted according to the contract. After this, monetary transactions take place. This process is the same as with contracted suppliers, see steps above and Table 1.
- All available waste that is not processed locally is sent to the waste incinerator WI.

• Evaluation stage:

- WS and WP evaluate the economic and operational outcomes (cash flows and use of the processor) and update TPB variables, based on evaluation variables (E), see Tables 4 and 5.
- Based on the outcomes, WS and WP decide whether they are still willing to participate in the ISN or not. WS and WP can leave the ISN when they lose too much money, which is set by input parameters  $WS_{StepOutMoney}$  and  $WP_{StepOutMoney}$ . WP can also leave when the amount of input waste remains too low for a certain period of time (input parameter  $WP_{StepOutEmpty}$ ). With TPB algorithms turned on, WS and WP do not directly leave the initiative: they first adjust their TPB behaviour value as a result of the aforementioned economic or operational outcomes. This is done by lowering the behaviour value (using parameters  $WSEB_{Failure}$  for WS and  $WPEB_{Failure}$  for WP). The resulting behaviour value is then compared to a behaviour threshold of each agent ( $WS_{StepOutB}$  for WS and  $WP_{StepOutB}$  for WP).
- If WP leaves, the ISN fails entirely.
- Existing contracts expire after a set period. We assume that a new contract can only be established after acceptance in a new bidding process.

Table 4: Agent behaviour changes by altering the TPB values after periodic evaluation of the individual outcomes. Note: All TPB values remain between 0 and 1.

Agent	Evaluation of periodic outcome per agent	New TPB value after evaluation	Eq. nr.
Waste supplier	No local waste exchange contract AND profit	$A_{WS} = A_{WS} - E_{A,WS}$	(17)
		$PBC_{WS} = PBC_{WS} + E_{PBC,WS}$	(18)
	No local waste exchange contract AND loss	$A_{WS} = A_{WS} + E_{A,WS}$	(19)
		$PBC_{WS} = PBC_{WS} - E_{PBC,WS}$	(20)
	Local waste exchange contract AND profit	$A_{WS} = A_{WS} + E_{A,WS}$	(21)
		$PBC_{WS} = PBC_{WS} + E_{PBC,WS}$	(22)
	Local waste exchange contract AND loss	$A_{WS} = A_{WS} - E_{A,WS}$	(23)
		$PBC_{WS} = PBC_{WS} - E_{PBC,WS}$	(24)
	$Avg. B_{Actors \in ISN} \geq SN_{WS}$	$SN_{WS} = SN_{WS} + E_{SN,WS}$	(25)
	$Avg. B_{Actors \in ISN} < SN_{WS}$	$SN_{WS} = SN_{WS} - E_{SN,WS}$	(26)
Waste processor	Enough waste in processor	$PBC_{WP} = PBC_{WP} + E_{PBC,WP}$	(27)
		$PBC_{WP} = PBC_{WP} - E_{PBC,WP}$	(28)
	Profit	$A_{WP} = A_{WP} + E_{A,WP}$	(29)
	Loss	$A_{WP} = A_{WP} - E_{A,WP}$	(30)
	$Avg. B_{Actors \in ISN} \geq SN_{WP}$	$SN_{WP} = SN_{WP} + E_{SN,WP}$	(31)
	$Avg. B_{Actors \in ISN} < SN_{WP}$	$SN_{WP} = SN_{WP} - E_{SN,WP}$	(32)

## Simulation Experiments

5.1 We posed three questions to the model, to explore how and to what extent planned behaviour theory affects the model outcomes in terms of network robustness, and cash flow outcomes for the social agents:

- How does the modelled *planned behaviour* affect the *network robustness*?
- How does the modelled *planned behaviour* affect the *cash flows for each individual ISN actor*?

- How does the modelled *planned behaviour* affect the *overall cash flow* for the ISN as a whole?

**5.2** In this section, we explain the input and output values in detail. In the next sections the experiment results, discussion and conclusions can be found.

### Independent variables: Planned behaviour

**5.3** We executed simulations with two types of *independent input variable sets*, see Table 5. The first input set does not employ the TPB algorithm (*TPB OFF*). The second input set includes the TPB algorithm to regulate the agents' behaviour (*TPB ON*).

**5.4** Given the scope of this study, and for the sake of conciseness, we only show experiments from the waste-as-waste design. We repeated each simulation 500 times to obtain statistical significance.

Table 5: Independent input variables sets.

Independent variable	Input set TPB OFF Input value	Input set TPB ON Input value	$\sigma$	Description
TPB?	FALSE	TRUE	n.a.	Determines whether to follow TPB algorithms or not
WSRNorm		2	n.a.	Standard deviation $\sigma$ for randomizing $PBC_{WS}$ , $A_{WS}$ and $SN_{WS}$
initWSPBC		0.5	WSRNorm	Perceived behavioural control value of WS ( $PBC_{WS}$ )
initWSWFPBC		Random 1 to 7	n.a.	Weight factor for $PBC_{WS}$
initWSEPBC		0.04	0.01	Evaluation variable $E_{PBC,WS}$ , see Table 4
initWSAtt		0.5	WSRNorm	Attitude value of WS ( $A_{WS}$ )
initWSWFAtt		Random 1 to 7	n.a.	Weight factor for $A_{WS}$
initWSEAtt		0.04	0.01	Evaluation variable $E_{A,WS}$ , see Table 4
initWSSN		0.5	WSRNorm	Subjective norm value of WS ( $SN_{WS}$ )
initWSWFSN		Random 1 to 7	n.a.	Weight factor for $SN_{WS}$
initWSESN		0.04	0.01	Evaluation variable $E_{PBC,WS}$ , see Table 4
WSStepOutB		0.25, 0.45	n.a.	Behaviour based leaving threshold for WS to leave the ISN
WSEBFailure		0.3	0.1	Agent behaviour reduction value
WPRNorm		2	n.a.	Standard deviation $\sigma$ for randomizing $PBC_{WP}$ , $A_{WP}$ and $SN_{WP}$

initWPPBC	0.5	WSRNorm	Perceived behavioural control value of WP ( $PBC_{WP}$ )
initWPWFPBC	Random 1 to 7	n.a.	Weight factor for $PBC_{WP}$
initWPEPBC	0.04	0.01	Evaluation variable $E_{PBC,WS}$ , see Table 4
initWPAtt	0.5	WSRNorm	Attitude value of WP ( $A_{WP}$ )
initWPWFAtt	Random 1 to 7	n.a.	Weight factor for $A_{WP}$
initWPEAtt	0.04	0.01	Evaluation variable $E_{A,WP}$ , see Table 4
initWPSN	0.5	WSRNorm	Subjective norm value of WP ( $SN_{WP}$ )
initWPWFSN	Random 1 to 7	n.a.	Weight factor for $SN_{WP}$
initWPESN	0.04	0.01	Evaluation variable $E_{SN,WP}$ , see Table 4
WPStepOutB	0.25; 0.45	n.a.	Behaviour based leaving threshold for WP to leave the ISN
WPEBFailure	0.3	0.1	Agent behaviour reduction value

- 5.5** In the TPB OFF input set, all TPB behaviour values are not applicable, since the model bypasses TPB algorithms.
- 5.6** In the TPB ON input set, the model simulates variations in initial agent behaviour with undetermined causes. Thus, we approximated a uniform distribution of the widest range of initial behaviour values (initWSB and initWPB) possible: between 0 and 1. We did so by setting PBC, A and SN at 0,5 and randomising these values with  $\sigma = 2$ , and by randomly altering the accompanying weight factors from 1 to 7.
- 5.7** The chosen average values and standard deviations for evaluation parameters (initWSESN and initWPESN ) and leaving parameters (WSSStepOutB, WPStepOutB, WSEBFailure and WPEBFailure) were determined by performing a sensitivity analysis and calibrating the outcomes based on information from case participants.

### Moderating variables: Design and context

- 5.8** The moderating variables consist of organisational design (Table 6) and context variables (Table 7). The effect of changing the organisational design is not explored in this paper, and therefore the accompanying input variables were fixed. These values were based on the interviews with case participants.

Table 6: Moderating variable settings concerning organisational design for both TPB OFF and TPB ON input sets. Assumptions were calibrated by showing the effects of input changes to case study participants and experts in the field of organic waste management.

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Remark</b>
<i>Residue treatment</i>			
Waste-as-by-product?	False	[-]	Model assumption
<i>Quality control</i>			
WSWQualRNorm	0.3		
WPQualThresholdPerc	0.5	[-]	Model assumptions
WSQualPenalty?	false		
<i>Quantity control</i>			
WPMInProcThresholdPerc	0.1	[-]	Model assumption
WPProcThresholdPerc	0.95	[-]	Model assumption
MaxQuantityAllowed	480	[Tonnes]	Mulder et al. (2018, p.54)
<i>Leaving the network</i>			
WSStepOutMoney	-1500	[Euro]	
WPStepOutMoney	-1500	[Euro]	Model assumptions
WPStepOutEmpty	2	[Seasons]	
<i>Contractual agreements ISN</i>			
Contract length	1	[Seasons]	
PercAvoidedWasteCosts2WS	1	[-]	Model assumptions
PercProductYield2WP	1	[-]	
<i>Process technology</i>			
Compost retention time	2	[Seasons]	van der Wurff et al. (2016, p.53)
I/Oratio active composting	0.5	[-]	Vlaco (2009, p.5)
Composting costs per tonne	33	[Euro/tonne]	LCA-LCC tool by Mulder et al. (2020)
<i>Negotiations</i>			
MaxOfferCounter	5	[Bids]	Model assumption

Table 7: Moderating variable settings concerning the ISN context for both TPB OFF and TPB ON input sets. Bolded values are randomized during model setup. \* Normal distribution with  $\mu$  = market price and standard deviation  $\sigma = 0.2\mu$ . \*\*Inputs from CSV, normal distribution with  $\mu$  = quantity and  $\sigma = 0.1\mu$ . \*\*\*Inputs from CSV, normal distribution with  $\mu$  = quality value and  $\sigma = WSWQualNorm$  (Table 6).

Variable	Value	Unit	Remark
<i>Existing contracts with incinerator</i>			
WSWIMaxfixed ContractLength	<b>Random 0 to 4</b>	[Seasons]	Suez (2020)
<i>Contractual agreements with incinerator</i>			
FlexMassWIcontract?	True	[-]	Model assumption; WI charges per mass unit waste (Euro/Tonne)
<i>Market prices</i>			
Cprice	<b>15*</b>		Bruins en Kwast (2019)
BPPrice	<b>0*</b>	[Euro/tonne]	Model assumption
Wprice	<b>40*</b>		Bruins en Kwast (2019); Vereniging Afvalbedrijven (2013)
<i>Waste supplier quantity</i>			
Each waste supplier	<b>Varying**</b>	[Tonne / season]	Determined per waste supplier. From CSV, waste quantities from: Mulder et al. (2018)
<i>Waste quality variables</i>			
Ditch cuttings	<b>0.55***</b>	[-]	
Farmland Waste	<b>0.9***</b>	[-]	Model assumptions, based on type of waste in: Mulder et al. (2018)

- 5.9** Uncertain conditions were included in the simulations by randomising the context variables. Here, we explain why and how.
- 5.10** Some waste suppliers do not enter the ISN before their *existing contract with the incinerator* ends. Some suppliers are at the end of this contract, others halfway or at the beginning. To address this, the agents obtain a randomised contract duration with a maximum of 1 year during setup (Suez 2020). After that period, the contracts are terminable, and the supplier starts participating in the ISN negotiations.
- 5.11** *Market prices* are set according to a randomised normal distribution based on recent market prices (Bruins en Kwast 2019; Vereniging Afvalbedrijven 2013) to account for realistic market prices in the simulation runs.
- 5.12** *The waste quantity and quality* of each supplier is based on measurements and estimations by participants in the case studies of Mulder et al. (2018). To account for quantity variations, these values are used as an average value, and randomized according to a normal distribution with a standard deviation equal to 10% of the quantity at the beginning of every new season. The waste quality values are also randomized each calculation step (between 0, worst quality and 1, best quality). These values were based on qualitative data from our case study (Mulder et al. 2018), using a normal distribution ( $\sigma = 0.3$ ). We would like to stress that these assumptions on waste quantity and quality fluctuations only apply to these cases.

### Dependent variables: Network robustness and cash flows

- 5.13** ISN Robustness. In our simulation results, we define a network to be robust, when it is able to run for 10 years, without falling apart due to leaving agents. Thus, the experiments were run over 40 steps (1 step per season).
- 5.14** Individual cash flows. We have measured the cash flow outcomes of each supplier and processor. Every agent deals with different amounts of exchanged waste, and therefore we normalized the outcomes to cash flow per tonne of waste.

**5.15** Average total cash flow for the ISN as a whole. To make a fair comparison among different network sizes, we expressed the total cash flow by normalizing it to average cash flow per tonne of waste per agent. The average cash flows in the TPB OFF runs were used as a benchmark. The average cash flow difference was calculated according to:

$$\Delta CF = CF_{TPB,ON} - CF_{TPB,OFF} \quad (33)$$

in which  $CF$  is the average cash flow per mass unit per ISN actor (Euro/tonne of waste/agent).

**5.16** By using this equation, we are able to compare the extent to which the *TPB ON* runs affect each agent's average economic outcomes.

## ● Results

### Effect of planned behaviour on the network robustness

**6.1** Figure 4 shows that the network has a higher chance of failure during the first seasons, and a lower chance of failure afterwards. This is particularly true for when TPB logic is applied.

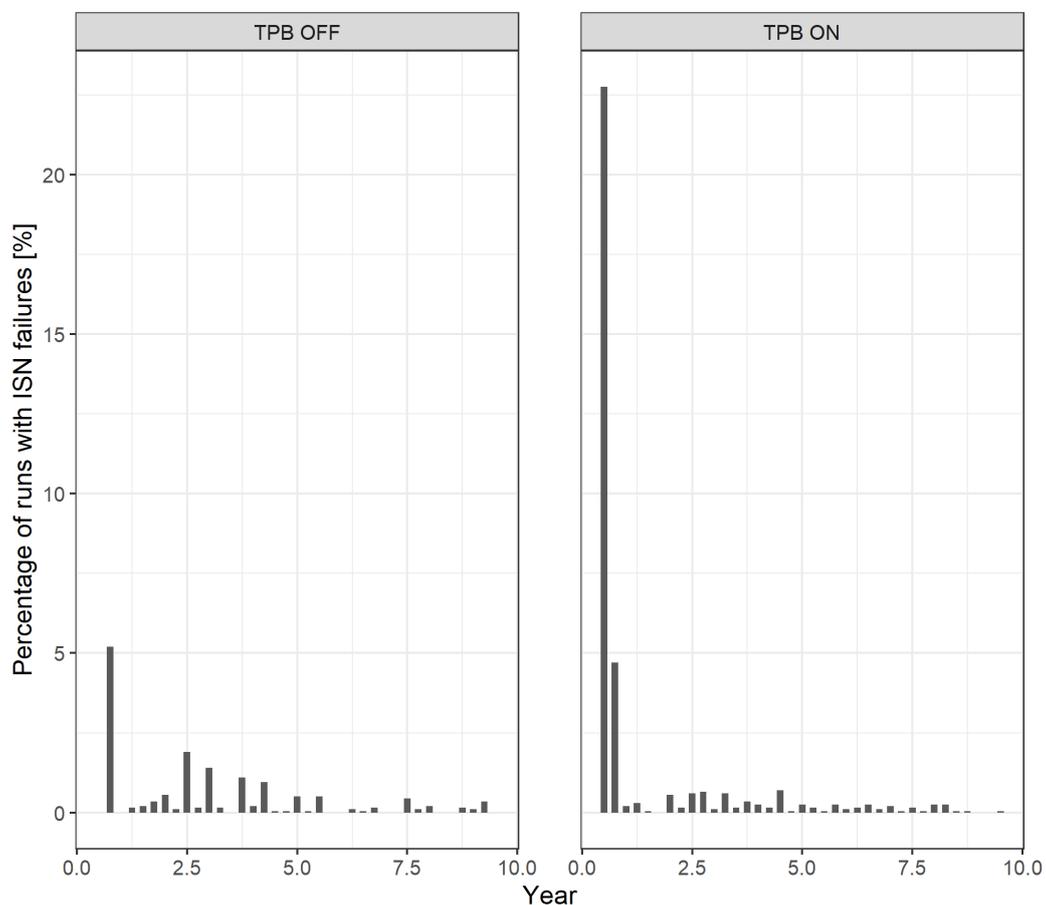


Figure 4: Industrial Symbiosis Network (ISN) failures over time when TPB OFF and TPB ON input sets are used.

**6.2** Figures 5 and 6 show the percentage of runs with surviving networks after running both *TPB OFF* and *TPB ON* input sets. For the sake of conciseness, here we discuss two types of TPB variables that affect the survival of the network: the initial behaviour values and the behaviour based leaving thresholds. Both figures show that particularly the waste processor behaviour parameters determine the robustness of the network.

**6.3** Thus, in TPB OFF runs influential mechanisms regarding ISN survival outcomes are lacking.

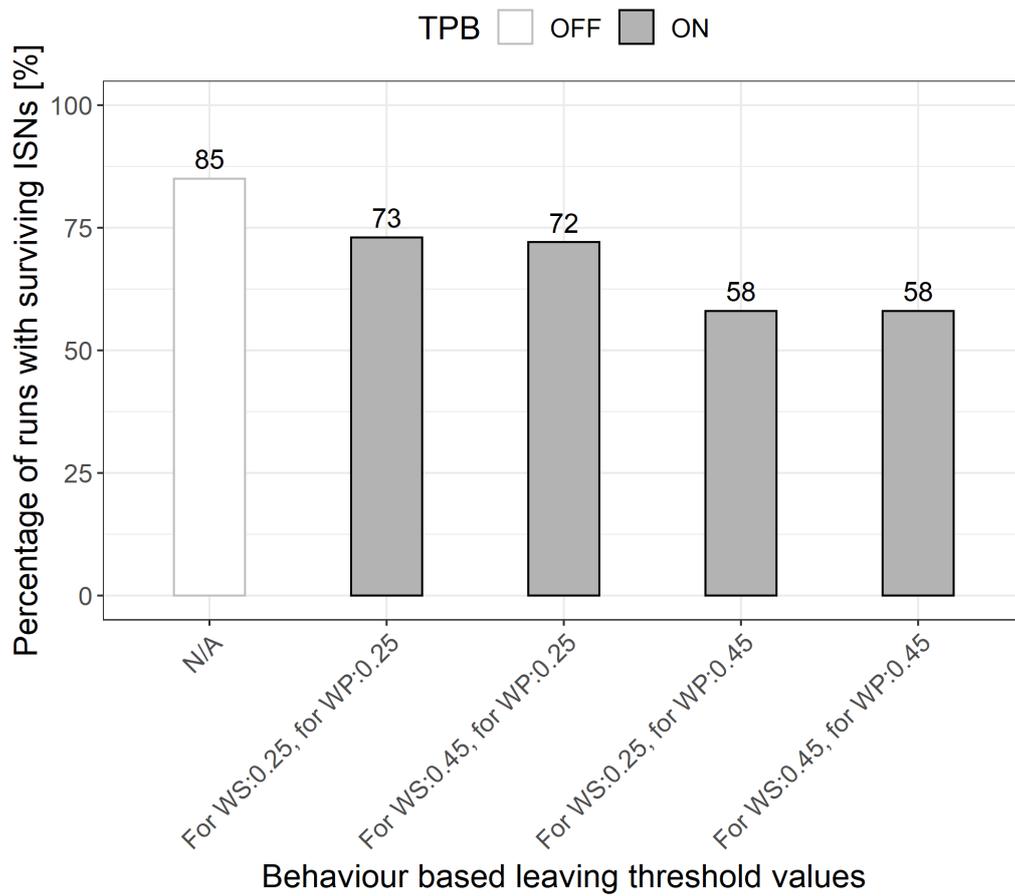


Figure 5: Comparison of ISN robustness as affected by the behaviour based leaving thresholds of WS and WP. ISN = industrial symbiosis network, TPB = theory of planned behaviour, WS = waste supplier, WP = waste processor.

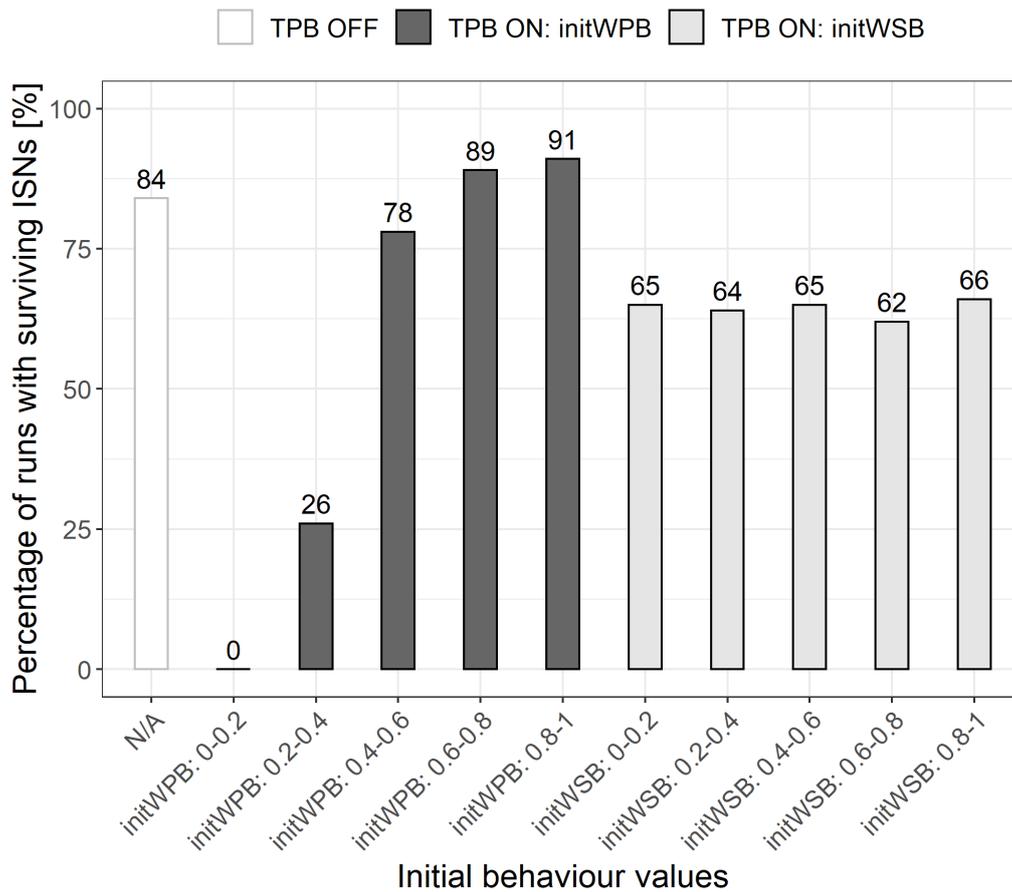


Figure 6: Percentage of runs resulting in robust industrial symbiosis networks using TPB OFF (utter left) versus TPB ON input sets. In the TPB ON runs, the percentage of robust networks is categorised by initial behaviour values of the waste processor (initWPB) and the supplier (initWSB).

### Effect of planned behaviour on individual cash flows

**6.4** The initial behaviour value and the accompanying cash flows of the supplier and processor can be found in Figures 7 and 8 respectively. Both boxplots follow standard Tukey representations. The results of accompanying Wilcoxon rank-sum tests - for not all samples can be assumed to be normally distributed - can be found in the repository (Lange et al. 2021).

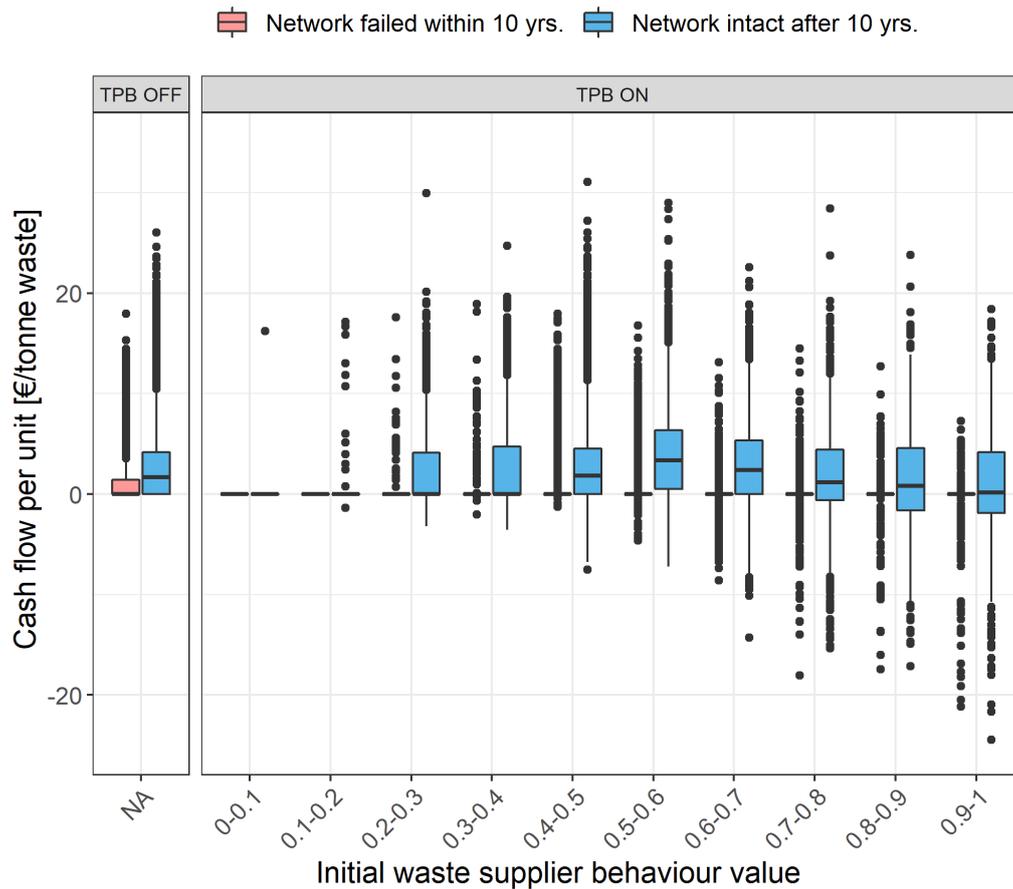


Figure 7: Initial waste supplier behaviour value ranges (initWSB) compared to cash flow per unit waste.

**6.5** Concerning the waste supplier, the results in Figure 7 allow us to make three comparisons (i.e. the differences between cash flow outcomes for  $p \leq 0.05$ ):

- There is a significant difference in cash flow outcomes between intact and failed networks.
- *TPB ON* model runs show a wide range of positive and negative cash flow outcomes, whereas *TPB OFF* model runs only show positive results.
- InitWSB between 0.5 and 0.6 is correlated with the highest cash flows. At  $\text{initWSB} > 0.9$ , the average WS plays even.

**6.6** Similarly, the waste processor results in Figure 8 show that:

- There is a difference in cash flow outcomes between intact and failed networks. The failed networks show a wider variance in the *TPB OFF* runs, compared to *TPB ON* runs.
- *TPB OFF* and *TPB ON* runs with intact networks show quite similar cash flows, except for the runs with the lowest initWPB values.
- Failed networks show a tipping point at the InitWPB value of 0.5.
- All networks failed at initWPB between 0 and 0.1.

**6.7** Thus, *TPB OFF* runs lack mechanisms that affect individual cash flow outcomes.

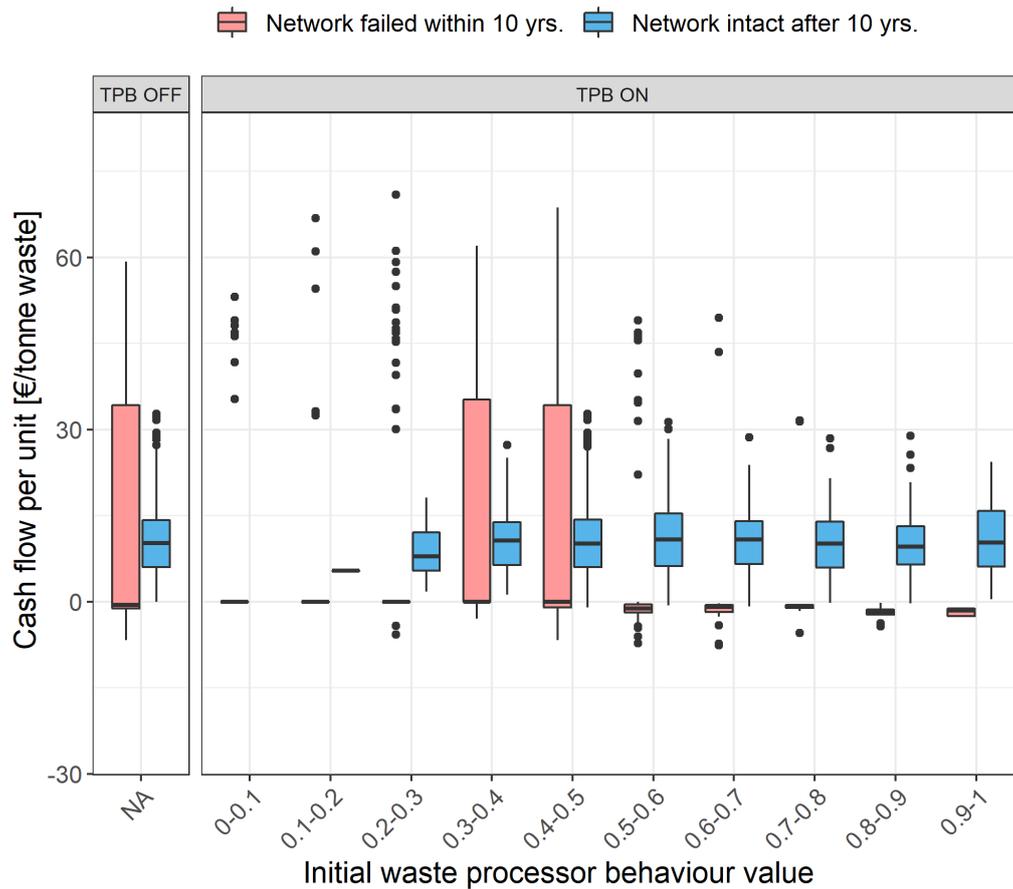


Figure 8: The waste processor's initial behaviour value (initWPB) compared to cash flow per unit.

6.8 Figure 9 shows how *TPB ON* runs affect the normalised average cash flow outcomes for each ISN actor (surviving networks only). Four areas can be identified in this figure:

- Red areas show which initial behaviour values correlate to economic disadvantages compared to *TPB OFF* runs.
- In purple areas there are higher economic benefits compared to *TPB OFF* runs.
- In white areas there is almost no difference between *TPB ON* and *TPB OFF* runs.
- Empty areas: there are no surviving networks in the lowest combinations of initial behaviour values.

6.9 Thus, if the model does not include TPB algorithms, significant information regarding cash flow outcomes on the network level is lacking.

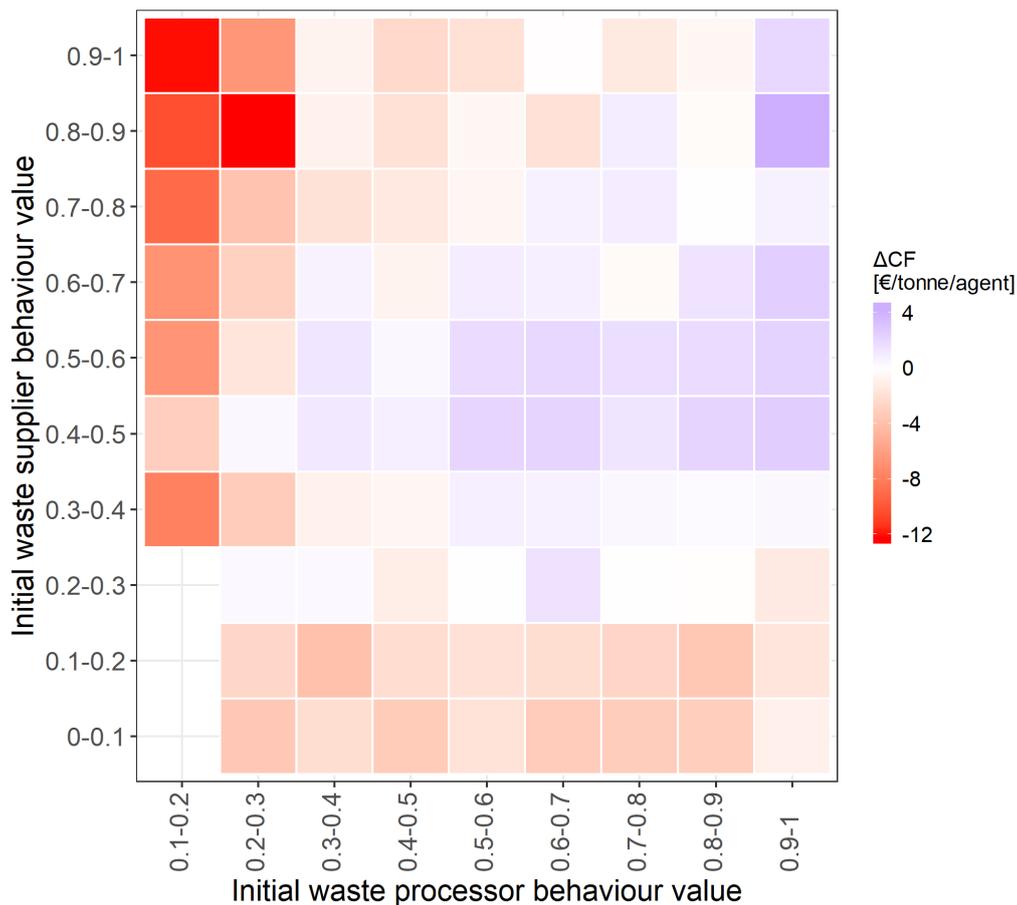


Figure 9: Average cash flow differences ( $\Delta CF$ ) between TPB ON and TPB OFF runs, for each initial behaviour value. The average cash flows in TPB OFF runs were used as a benchmark.

## ● Discussion, Conclusions and Future Work

### Validation of mechanisms and outcomes

- 7.1** The model represents a sociotechnical system, which implies that insights from the model affect the modelled system itself (Hodges 1991). Classical validation - in the sense of generating a model prediction and validating it with an empirical experiment - is not possible, since the simulation outcomes represent possible futures. The purpose of the model and its simulations is therefore to explore and not to predict. However, we used two methods to increase external validity of the model outcomes: expert validation and literature comparison (van Dam et al. 2013, p.127). In repeated consultation sessions with domain experts and case participants, we systematically went through the model assumptions, the simulation mechanisms and the outcomes. The results concerning ISN robustness corroborate observations by Chertow & Ehrenfeld (2012, p.24); they observed that ISNs often fail to grow beyond their initial set of synergies. In addition, the costs and benefits outcomes are found to be in line with the business reports and policy documents as referred to in Tables 6 and 7.

### Discussion

#### General contribution

- 7.2** The current model describes the planned behaviour of waste suppliers and processors in the context of all stages of industrial symbiosis implementation. By building the model, structural, transactional and link characteristics (Doménech & Davies 2009) of the case were disclosed. The model includes network size, physical

transfers of waste and money, information exchanges regarding the waste quantity and quality, and frequent negotiation and communication for setting up local collaborations. We described the agents from their specific symbiosis roles, i.e., waste supplier and processor. This allowed us to model agents that act and evaluate outcomes according to their intentions and behaviour regarding synergy creation or ending.

- 7.3** The model is generic and comprehensive in a way that all ISN implementation stages for firms in free-market waste management systems were included. The model was built up using a comprehensive set of data on collaborative composting by including three cases. Organic flows have a relatively high quantitative and qualitative heterogeneity. Processor capacity and supply dynamics are therefore included. In addition, the quality of the waste was modelled as '*fitness for processing*'. By doing so, the model can also be applied to analyse other types of residuals and conversion processes with relatively small efforts and without significant change of model behaviour.
- 7.4** The purpose of the model was to ask 'what if' questions about sensitivities regarding agent behaviour, combined with the ISN's organisational design and context. In our experimental design, we used Monte-Carlo simulations in which we repeatedly manipulated the non-controllable behavioural inputs, combined with randomized contextual inputs, which were based on empirical data. This allowed us to assess the impact of TPB variables in the model.

### Waste processor perspective

- 7.5** Planned behaviour of the waste processor affected the network's survival and economic benefits or losses. In some simulation runs, the *leaving threshold* of the waste processor played a very important role for the survival of the network. The *leaving threshold* can be considered an indicator of actor persistence as defined by Agarwal & Strachan (2006, p.23); it causes the waste processor to respond more or less eager to negative outcomes. Our results indicate that persistence of the waste processor influences the network robustness. This may be explained by the fact that the waste processor is able to choose between multiple waste suppliers. Only when too many waste suppliers decided to withdraw, was the processor also forced to quit due to insufficient waste deliveries. These results are in line with for example Vurro et al. (2009), who state that an organisation with a relatively high degree of centrality is able to influence the network. A waste processor that is willing and acting to implement symbiosis from the start (modelled as  $initWPB > 0.5$ ), can expect higher network survival chances. When the waste processor acts unwillingly, it tends to overcharge the suppliers, leading to waste suppliers leaving, resulting in network failures. If an ISN survives, the waste processor's cash flow outcomes are not correlated with its initial planned behaviour. This is because the actions of the modelled processor are considerably determined by choosing who to negotiate with, based on the highest potential economic value of the waste stock. Hence, in case of ISN survival, economic behaviour dampens the influence of planned behaviour.

### Waste supplier perspective

- 7.6** The modelled planned behaviour of the waste supplier does not affect the network's survival significantly, but it does affect its economic benefits or losses. Planned behaviour of the waste suppliers causes some agents to cooperate in ISNs without making profit. This differs from the experiments without planned behaviour, in which waste suppliers never obtain negative cash flow outcomes. Waste suppliers that are slightly willing to cooperate in ISNs ( $initWSB$  close to 0.6) obtain the most economic benefit per tonne of waste. For all waste suppliers, but particularly the ones with large quantities, these benefits can make quite a difference in the low margin compost market.
- 7.7** ISN perspective. The modelled planned behaviour of both social actors affects the network robustness and cash flow outcomes. The simulation results show that motivating and supporting the processor as a key player are important to improve both ISN robustness and economic outcomes on the network level. This indicates that future research on policy interventions for improvement of processor behaviour is warranted.

### Modeller and practitioner perspectives

- 7.8** This study shows that if an ISN model does not include behaviour, important mechanisms may be lacking. In practice, modelled TPB values of suppliers and processors can be measured before and during implementation of ISNs, for example by means of questionnaires (Ajzen 2002). Combined with data regarding economic outcomes, emerging synergies and disappearing synergies, this allows us to calibrate our model further and

increase its informative power. Eventually, this helps practitioners to decide about joining an ISN or changing the organisational and technological design. Based on the model outcomes, we also advise stakeholders to implement interventions that encourage the waste processor to stay in the network.

### Study limitations

- 7.9** The model and simulation study also have their limitations. One limitation concerns the case study context. The modelled Dutch market for industrial and commercial waste management is a free market, and therefore waste suppliers can choose which processor to partner with. The model cannot be used for implementation of ISNs in government planned or non-market waste management contexts. In many cases negotiation takes the form of open auction rather than the modelled bilateral negotiations. In addition, the negotiation tactics can be modelled differently, for example by implementing imitative negotiation tactics (Faratin et al. 2002). Another limitation is that the modelled behaviour is focussed on joining ISNs for competitive advantage, and other drivers for behaviour, such as personal attitude and trust towards potential partners are not yet included in the model. The model allows for testing two organisational designs, i.e., waste-as-waste and waste-as-by-product. However, since this article focuses on the behaviour of actors, only the waste-as-waste design was used in this study's simulations. Given the emergence of circular economy research and practices, the efficacy of various organisational designs should be studied. Although the model allows for studying the effect of external disruptions, for the sake of conciseness we did not include external events in our experiments. External disruptions should be considered when more realistic insights into long-term performance of the system are required.

### Conclusions

- 7.10** This study aims to understand how the behaviour of firms affects the implementation and robustness of symbiotic collaborations. It presents the first agent-based model that combines all ISN implementation stages of Tao et al. (2019) with planned behaviour of agents. The modelled network evolves through local by-product transactions after a series of individual decisions, communication between agents and bilateral negotiations. Adding the theory of planned behaviour as our behavioural model allows for modelling agent negotiation and self-evaluation. The model shows that adding such behavioural theory provides significantly different and more detailed insights regarding network robustness and cash flow outcomes. If behaviour was not modelled using TPB, important behavioural mechanisms would be lacking in the model, although this behaviour is measurably present in the real world.
- 7.11** Participatory modelling of behaviour not merely increases the external validity of industrial symbiosis network models. It also provides stakeholders insights on how ISNs can be implemented, and what factors are important to consider. The process of modelling has thus become part of the implementation of industrial symbiosis, since it facilitated social learning among participants, affecting their behavioural intention.
- 7.12** For practitioners, this study shows that human behaviour variables, such as the attitude, control beliefs and norms are important to include in preparing, implementing and evaluating closed loops in ISNs. Behavioural scientists can facilitate project leaders by measuring these variables. If the combination of behaviour values is unfavourable for the ISN robustness, the project leader can either rethink the system design to encourage stakeholders or engage new ISN participants.

### Future research

- 7.13** The limitations of this study provide us with directions for future research.
- 7.14** More evidence from other cases should be collected to develop generic design rules for policies, business models and technology implementations. In future research we will therefore integrate more case evidence. In addition, other organisational designs, such as waste-as-by-product or policy interventions will be studied to support practitioners in ISN initiatives. To test interventions that are significantly affected by agent behaviour, future research may also include questionnaires to determine TPB values, e.g., from Ajzen (2002). To explore long-term performance and resilience of the modelled system, it is required to study the effects of external disruptions, including the behaviour of actors. Finally, we suggest comparing and integrating the proposed model with other models, to increase its contribution to understanding the complexity of real-world industrial symbiosis.

## ● Acknowledgements

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## ● Author Contributions

Kasper Lange contributed to conception of the work, data collection, analysis and interpretation, model development, drafting and writing the article. Gijsbert Korevaar contributed to model development, data interpretation, critical revisions of the article, and final approval of the version to be published. Igor Nikolic contributed to software implementation, data analysis and interpretation, critical revisions of the article, and final approval of the version to be published. Paulien Herder contributed to model development, data interpretation, critical revisions and final approval.

## ● Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funding sponsors had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, and in the decision to publish the results.

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