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ASSOCIATION
OF CITIES
AND REGIONS
FOR RECYCLING
AND SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

ASSOCIATION
DES CITÉS
ET RÉGIONS POUR
LE RECYCLAGE
ET LA GESTION
DURABLE
DES RESSOURCES

ASOCIACIÓN
DE CIUDADES
Y REGIONES PARA
EL RECICLAJE
Y LA GESTIÓN
SOSTENIBLE
DE LOS RECURSOS

ACR+ ACTIVITY REPORT 2009

The ACR+ work for 2009 focused on 3 main lines:

- to promote prevention and reuse
- to promote recycling
- to develop permanent services to ACR+ members

Line 1. TO PROMOTE PREVENTION AND REUSE

1.1. The ACR+ European Campaign for Waste Reduction

Initiated in 2007, the **ACR+ campaign for waste reduction « - kg »** moved on 4 main lines of action.

A. Exchange of information and experiences on prevention

This line of action was developed through:

- a specific section on the ACR+ website
- some publications (technical reports based on cluster activities - see below)
- the activities organized on the occasion of the European Week for Waste Reduction (see below), especially the international conference in Barcelona (which took place on 24 November 2009).

B. Clusters (Working Groups)

Regarding the clusters (working groups) "Biomwaste" and "Packaging" the two first technical reports were disseminated at the end of 2008 and two new meetings were organized in 2009.

In 2009, ACR+ organized the clusters (working groups) on Paper waste reduction and Bulky waste reduction.

- The cluster "Bulky waste" focused on the potential for product reuse and was organized in Barcelona on 23 March 2009 (and a specific report concerning "from "déchetteries" to "ressourceries"" has been elaborated (funded by ARC).
- The cluster "Paper Waste" focusing on « office dematerialization» as well as other aspects of cardboard and paper waste reduction took place in Brussels on 19 May 2009.

C. A new guide on waste prevention benchmarks

A new ACR+ guide (largely based on the "clusters prevention" between 2007 and 2009) has been put together by the Secretariat on the question of quantitative references, on the subject of waste reduction. This guide was published in November 2009.



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D. European Week for Waste Reduction

In 2009, ACR+ started, with the support of the LIFE+ programme of the EC, and in cooperation with ADEME, the concrete implementation of the concept of the European Week for Waste Reduction.

In this project, ACR+ is responsible for communication aspects and the technical Secretariat of the Week. Practically, ACR+ has contributed so far by the following tasks:

- Elaborating the graphic charter and logo with Ademe
- Elaborating the Communication toolkit for participants (with Ademe)
- Creating the content of the European website www.ewwr.eu and ensuring translation works into EN
- Managing the call for interest for organizers throughout Europe (21 organisers in 10 countries participated in 2009)
- Acting as support for the organizers
- Preparing in practice the first official edition of the European Waste Reduction Week
- Managing the organization of the European Waste Reduction Awards 09 competition and ceremony (due to take place on 15 March 2010 in Brussels, with IBGE).

E. Development of partnerships or projects between specific cities and regions

In 2009, several European project proposals were submitted with ACR+ members, and particularly:

- MINI-WASTE (elaboration of a waste reduction management tool and demonstration actions for organic waste reduction) (coordinated by Rennes-Métropole), approved in August 2009, start in Jan 2010
- SOREMA (Sustainable Organic Resources Management) (coordinated by Vlaco-OVAM Flanders), selection in progress
- PRE WASTE: project focused on waste prevention (coordinated by the Marche Region), approved, start in March 2010
- WAPER project introduced by the Emilie-Romagne Region (Italy), promotion of best practices on the subject of waste prevention at regional level, selection in progress

1.2. Link to « sustainable consumption and life styles” issues

With waste prevention being a top priority for its activities (in connection with the new framework directive and the European concept of national prevention programmes), ACR+ started developing its reflection on sustainable production and consumption, smart lifestyles, low-carbon society, with a special focus on substitution of products by eco-services.

ACR+ will provide its members with the necessary elements of understanding and feedback from successful experiences, allowing them to integrate those aspects into their own strategies and actions.

A Research project on Sustainable distribution and information for consumers was submitted to the Walloon Region member (Office Wallon des déchets) and was approved in



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August 2009. The work began in September 2009 and will end in April 2010. A technical report and a Seminar on “Sustainable distribution: information of the consumers” will be the main outcomes.

ACR+ is also involved in a project proposal to the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation lead by ICLEI: LG Action (Local Governments Action for Climate change) which began in June 2009.

Line 2. TO PROMOTE RECYCLING

2.1. International Observatory of Municipal Waste Recycling

Performances

Gathering quantitative data related to waste management in European cities and regions has always been one of the main goals of ACR+.

The new framework-directive is going to create a renewed interest in quantitative objectives for recycling. Therefore, ACR+ intends to (re)develop a real international observatory on the main municipal waste flows. In that perspective, ACR+ has initiated contacts to organise a pilot group of regions and cities to work on the topic.

2.2. International Conferences on Selective Collection and Recycling of Municipal Waste

The key issues related to plastic waste recycling were the topic of an important international conference co-organized by Plastics Europe and ACR+: the IDENTIPLAST Conference on Integrated Plastic Waste Management, 20-22 April 2009, Brussels.

Furthermore, with our member WasteServ Malta, the 2009 ACR+ general assembly, combined with an international conference about “Selective Collection of Municipal Waste : practical aspects and best practices in Europe”, were organized in Malta on 7-8-9 October 2009.

2.3. Material and Energy Resource Recovery

Since the beginning, ACR+ aimed at promoting material recovery (after prevention) to save resources. In 2009-2010, ACR+ will still emphasize the importance of performing good selective collection schemes (particularly during the Malta meeting in October 2009 – see above).

However, with a growing debate concerning various alternatives for energy from waste, ACR+ has been in dialogue with EPE and Holcim to conclude a partnership in order to feed the debate around the corresponding cost-benefit for the environment of recycling versus different energy treatments, with a focus on the energy balance. The partnership started in September 2009 and led to the organisation of a Workshop in December 2009, which will be followed by a report in 2010.

ACR+ also published a technical report for its members on “Waste anaerobic digestion plants in Europe: introduction”.



2.4. Extended Producer Responsibility

In 2009, ACR+ worked on the use of Extended Producer Responsibility schemes by examining the systems currently existing in Europe for the flows covered by EU regulations as well as for other waste flows.

The main activities in this field in 2009 were:

- the WEEE-PIN Working group (co-chaired by INTERAFVAL and AMORCE) with a meeting on 9 February 2009 in Brussels providing monitoring of the new WEEE Directive proposal
- a study on EPR schemes for specific waste flows (paper, textile, oils) at European level (with the support of ARC).

2.5. EU Waste Policy

ACR+ has conducted an important follow-up of the Waste European Policy, namely:

- the analysis and interpretation of the Waste Framework Directive, adopted end 2008 and the follow-up of the subsequent implementation tasks of the EC, namely the elaboration of guidelines for waste prevention
- the participation in the stakeholders consultation regarding the Green Paper on Bio-waste and the follow-up of the Impact Assessment Study commissioned by the EC

2.6. Specific Support for Eastern and Southern Cities and Regions

ACR+ continued its efforts to develop activities especially with cities and regions from new Member States and from the European Neighbourhood Policy (in particular the Mediterranean area). This has led to the preparation and submission of a Project proposal under DG EuropAid Call "Ciudad": partnership for sustainable waste management and consumption in South-Mediterranean countries (project approved in September 2009; which will start in February 2010 for 2 years.

ACR+ is also a partner in a consortium led by the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, culture and sustainable development (MIO-ECSDE), which has been selected by the EC (EuropAid) to provide capacity building support in the framework of the Horizon 2020 strategy for the de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea.



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Line 3. TO DEVELOP PERMANENT SERVICES TO ACR+ MEMBERS

3.1. Recurrent Activities

- News and information services: ACR+ carried on providing information to its members via the weekly Newslines service, the Warmer Bulletin, its specialised website www.acrplus.org, as well as a regular Newsletter.
- An upgraded website has been prepared with a view of strengthening the links between members and with the Secretariat. It will be placed online during Q1 2010. A new intranet meant for ACR+ staff was launched in August 2010 to optimize internal communication. Furthermore, technical solutions based on state-of-the-art technologies have been identified to streamline the contacts and mailing management. The idea to set up a permanent documentation centre reserved to ACR+ members is also being looked at.
- European projects: as mentioned above, ACR+ has continued to seek out European funding for new projects in order to develop innovative experiences and the expertise of its members. This has led to several new projects.

3.2. 15 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

ACR+ was created in 1994 in Pamplona (Spain). It is now a renowned network in Europe gathering nearly one hundred members and connecting thousands of contacts dealing with municipal waste management and sustainable consumption. Its activities and topics of work have evolved together with the evolution of European waste policies and geographical coverage.

In 2009, ACR+ celebrated its 15th anniversary by publishing a book on "Municipal waste in Europe". The publication of this book was the occasion of celebrating the anniversary in different European cities (Brussels, Paris, London,...). In Brussels, on 15 September, nearly 300 persons gathered at the newly opened Magritte Museum for a conference-debate on the Future of the European waste policy followed by a festive reception.