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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+ WORK PROGRAMME 2012

Brussels, December 2011

### **1. ACR+'s KEY ASSIGNMENTS**

Since its creation in 1994, ACR+ has constantly evolved in terms of working areas and type of activities with its members. But always ACR+ has tried to have a working equilibrium between legal, technical, economical and educational issues. And ACR+ has tried to anticipate the new challenges for local and regional waste managers while proposing innovative reflections and solutions. Taking into account this evolution process, this section recaps how we see ACR+'s key assignments for the next years.

#### **a) ACR+ is the European thematic network of local and regional authorities focusing on waste and resource management**

- It is a network of public authorities (local and regional governments or waste managers working at local level)
- It is a thematic network aiming at increasing the expertise of its members through the exchange of information and good practices
- It is a European stakeholder with a double objective of feeding the EU debate about waste and resources as well as to follow and explain the new policy developments to its members.
- It is open to partnerships with the private sector, the NGOs, the research institutes and the public bodies at national or international level
- Its area of intervention covers the European Union, the candidate countries and the neighbourhood policy countries
- It is particularly interested in developing capacity building and networking activities with the countries of the Union for the Mediterranean.

#### **b) ACR+ is an information and networking virtual hub (only for members)**

- Weekly Newslines
- Bi-monthly magazine
- ACR+ technical reports and guidance documents
- Monthly Webinars (available on website)
- Virtual library
- Videos from events and expert (showcasing ACR+ members and/or external experts)
- Case studies database and performances benchmark (Waste Prevention DB and Recycling Observatory)
- Website and members area
- Members forum on LinkedIn

#### **c) ACR+ co-organizes events throughout Europe**

- International conferences
- seminars
- thematic working groups

- trainings and site visits

#### **d) ACR+ develops training and capacity building solutions (NEW)**

Tailored trainings for various audiences and topics (on demand of members)

- Study tours
- Capacity building
- Peer-review of waste policies and plans
- Baseline assessment

**e) ACR+ is involved in co-financed projects** (always with the objective of increasing ACR+ expertise on topics of interest for our members)

- EU funded projects
- Specific projects, events or research work on behalf of ACR+ members
- Partnerships with other stakeholders: national bodies, professional federations, NGOs, private companies

## **2. ACR+ ACTIVITIES IN 2012 (and perspectives for 2013)**

ACR+ activities will focus on the following topics:

- Waste and resource prevention
- Waste recycling and resource recovery
- Economic instruments for waste and resource policies
- Euro-Mediterranean network for waste management
- Enhanced information and networking exclusive services for ACR+ members

### **2.1. Waste prevention**

Waste prevention is at the top of the waste hierarchy, promoted by the Waste framework directive 2008/98 and its requirements for public authorities throughout Europe: waste prevention programmes, fixations of quantitative or qualitative benchmarks, indicators, etc. It is also directly linked with the preservation and efficient use of material and energy resources, which is at the core of the European policy, namely concretised in the recent Resource Efficiency Roadmap, released in September 2011.

Based on this, ACR+ work on prevention will focus on the following items:

- **Measuring** waste prevention (potential targets, quantitative results, indicators, impact)
- **Planning** waste prevention (elaboration and implementation of waste prevention programmes)
- **Communicating** waste prevention and involving stakeholders

- **Linking** waste prevention with other policies (resource efficiency, climate change, sustainable consumption and production)
- Highlighting the place and potential for **reuse and preparing for reuse**

### **Main activities and deliverables for members on waste prevention**

#### **a) ACR+ database of waste prevention case studies: enhanced and updated content**

At the beginning of 2011, ACR+ released its online database of case studies on quantitative aspects of waste prevention. This database has been made **exclusively available for ACR+ Members** in their designated area of the ACR+ website. It will be continuously updated as additional case studies become available and contributions are made and it will constitute a useful tool for the Members and inspiration to implement concrete actions for waste prevention actions while being able to assess their effectiveness.

More information on [www.acrplus.org/Database\\_quantitative\\_benchmarks](http://www.acrplus.org/Database_quantitative_benchmarks)

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#### **b) ACR+ training (NEW): How to elaborate and to implement a waste prevention programme at local level.**

To respond to increasing incoming requests and based on a cumulated experience and expertise, ACR+ intends to propose tailor-made trainings on different municipal waste management issues. The first topic will address the question of elaborating and implementing waste prevention programmes or plans. **A first training session will be proposed during the year 2012.**

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#### **c) European Week for Waste Reduction**

Since 2009, ACR+ is involved in the LIFE+ project EWWR, further developing the concept and organising a third edition in 2011. This activity covers a large number of tasks and is conducted in cooperation with ADEME (French Agency for the Environment) and other ACR+ Members (in particular ARC, LIPOR, IBGE). ACR+ assumes the role of technical Secretariat for the EWWR, providing support to the organisers and project developers, ensuring the promotion and communication and organizing the European competition for EWWR Awards for the best actions related to waste prevention awareness-raising.

In 2011, 34 public authorities and the European Secretariat were coordinating the EWWR and **7035 actions** were implemented in **32 countries** during the Week.

The challenge is now to continue the expansion in 2012 and to ensure a continuation of the concept of EWWR which has proved successful and is acclaimed by the European Commission. A new project proposal has been submitted to the European Commission with a renewed concept of EWWR including new themes (based on the 3R, Reduce-Reuse-Recycling), new actions (including a European Clean Up Day), new tools for specific targets, etc.

Upcoming milestones:



- June 2012: Publication of good practices guide regarding awareness-raising for waste prevention
- 19-20 June 2012: International Conference & EWWR Awards Ceremony, Paris
- 17 to 25 November 2012: Edition 2012 of the EWWR

More information on [www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu)

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#### **d) Prewaste Project (2010-2012, Interreg IVC):**

The Interreg IVC project Prewaste gathers 10 partners and is led by the Marche Region (IT). It aims to improve regional/local waste prevention policies effectiveness by:

- the definition of a common methodology for regional waste prevention policies and the exchange of good practices
- the assessment of waste prevention actions efficiency and monitoring:
- the dissemination of knowledge

The next milestones in 2012 are:

- January 2012: Publication of good practices
- June 2012: Publication of a methodology for transferability of good practices at local or regional level
- September 2012: Training session, Malta
- October 2012: : Prewaste Final European Conference, Brussels and release of the Prewaste Monitoring Webtool

More information on: [www.acrplus.org/pre-waste](http://www.acrplus.org/pre-waste) and [www.prewaste.eu](http://www.prewaste.eu).

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#### **e) Miniwaste Project (2010-2012, Life+):**

The Miniwaste Life+ project aims to design, implement and assess an innovative and sustainable strategic plan to MINimise municipal organic WASTE in EU countries. It takes place between 2010 and 2012 and is led by Rennes-Métropole (France) with 4 other partners including ACR+. The following activities will take place in the coming months:

- Development of a computerized tool to prepare and monitor waste prevention policies and actions
- Demonstration of actions in the partners cities and testing of the computerized tool
- 21 November 2012: Miniwaste Final Conference for bio-waste prevention in Rennes, FR

See [www.miniwaste.eu](http://www.miniwaste.eu)

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## f) Additional ACR+ initiatives on waste prevention

- ACR+ Waste prevention session, South-East European Waste Conference, Sofia, 28-30 March 2012. ACR+ is a supporting partner of this event in charge of organizing a session about waste prevention with examples from its members.

See [http://www.acrplus.org/waste\\_conference\\_sofia2012](http://www.acrplus.org/waste_conference_sofia2012)

- Workshop on reuse and preparing for reuse: Reuse and preparing for reuse are 2 concepts to clarify and a workshop will be organized in 2012.
- Plastic Bags Report, January 2012, this is an updated version (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) of the previous report giving a comprehensive overview of legal and technical initiatives for the prevention of plastic bags

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## g) Green Commerce project

ACR+ is involved as a partner in the LIFE+ project Green Commerce led by the Valencia Community (Spain). This project aims to mobilise the small retail shops on environmental objectives by making a series of tools available to assist with this endeavour, and, ultimately, to create a code of conduct and a European label for Green Commerce.

In 2012, ACR+ will continue to produce and disseminate the Green Commerce Bulletin and manage a European blog on the internet about the outcomes of the “Green Commerce” project and general information on the topic.

ACR+ will support the participation of the project to the Green Weeks in 2012 and 2013 as well as the organisation of 2 International events by the Valencia Region.

More information on <http://www.lifeplusgreencommerce.eu/>

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## 2.2. Waste recycling and resource recovery

The European regulation for recycling is in constant evolution the last years. It sets mandatory targets for the public authorities at all levels throughout the EU.

With the objective of increasing municipal waste recycling performances, ACR+ will continue its work to analyse, compare and promote the best practices concerning waste selective collection, treatment alternatives, financial schemes and how to optimise costs namely by:

- Analyzing the progress made towards a **European Recycling Society**
- Improving the data collection and publishing a **European benchmark**
- Identifying the underlying **good practices** and contextual aspects
- **Reinforcing capacities** to meet the EU targets

- Contributing to the debate concerning the revision of the **EU targets** in 2014
- Improving ACR+ members expertise regarding collection and treatment alternatives, with a special focus on **biowaste, WEEE and residual waste** (other specific flows could be Hazardous Household Waste, textile, packaging, valuable materials)
- Being a leading partner in the INTERREG IVC “R4R” (Regions for Recycling) project, which aims at promoting regional contributions to the European Recycling Society, by allowing local and regional authorities to identify transferable good practices related to local instruments to improve recycling performances. ACR+ will be in charge of the Communication and Dissemination of the project, which is led by the Observatoire Régional des Déchets de l’Ile de France –ORDIF (FR).

### **Main activities and deliverables for members on waste recycling and resource recovery**

#### **a) ACR+ European Observatory of Municipal Waste Recycling Performances**

The collection of quantitative data concerning waste management at local and regional levels in Europe and specifically the links with recycling performance rates and good waste management practices and techniques, are at the core of ACR+ activities.

The subject is complex but a high interest has been drawn for identifying quantitative recycling targets and best practices, particularly due to the new Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC and its obligation to reach **the target of a 50% municipal recycling rate by 2020**.

As a result, since end 2010, ACR+ has developed a permanent European Decentralized Observatory of municipal waste performances in Europe. The Observatory is initially focusing on the analysis of recycling performances across different regional/local authorities in Europe.

Three specific working groups have been created with the participation of **24 cities and regions** among ACR+ members. The **next steps** for the work of the Observatory are:

- April 2012: 1st Observatory Report after 1 year of work
- 26-27 April 2012: Observatory Workshop and Study Visit, Odense (DK)
- Launch a European barometer: by December 2012

More details about this project: [www.acrplus.org/observatory](http://www.acrplus.org/observatory)

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#### **b) Biowaste Management**

The management of biowaste is still a **hot issue for most public waste managers in Europe**: waste prevention strategies (food waste, smart gardening, decentralized composting...), the collection schemes, the treatment alternatives and required investments, the links with sewage sludge, etc call for the search of optimized ways for managing biowaste following the waste hierarchy.



An **event** about biowaste management (prevention, selective collection and treatment alternatives) will be organised in 2012 or 2013

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### c) Glass selective collection and recycling

Within the partnership with FEVE (European Federation of Glass Beverage Containers), ACR+ has carried out a study aiming at identifying **good practices of selective glass collection** by the municipal waste managing authorities.

The strategic objective established for this project is to increase awareness and dissemination of information on good practices of glass recycling with the aim to increase the quantity and quality of the cullet available.

The operational objectives include:

- Identification of the different types of glass recycling collection schemes operating across Europe
- The type of factors affecting the success of an effective glass collection scheme
- Evaluation of the performance of the different glass collection schemes
- Identification and description of best practices for glass selective schemes leading to closed loop recycling
- Dissemination of information on the identified best practices

The **final report** will be published in January 2012.

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### d) Implementing the waste hierarchy at local level

- In partnership with Holcim Corporate, ACR+ will publish a **guidance document** concerning the implementation of the waste hierarchy and the place of co-processing for specific waste flows. A workshop will also be organised within 2012.

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## 2.3. Economic Instruments

Legal and economic instruments are powerful tools to influence policy to encourage more sustainable behavior by private and public sectors as well as from citizen-consumers.

The use of legal and economic instruments raises many questions:

- What are **the benefits and the drawbacks** of each system and its impact on performances and costs?
- What are the most appropriate instruments to achieve defined objectives?
- What are the consequences of **EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility)** systems for local and regional authorities?
- What is the impact of **Pay-As-You-Throw** systems on waste management performances?
- Which **accompanying measures** are necessary to ensure effective functioning of the chosen system?

The main focus for ACR+ work on economic instruments in 2012-2013 will be:

- Highlighting the **role of economic instruments** in the implementation of waste management policies in support of the waste hierarchy
- **Analysing the situation in Europe** regarding the use of economic instruments such as taxes, EPR schemes, PAYT systems, deposit schemes, etc
- Providing **guidance** on the definition and implementation of economic instruments

### **Main activities and deliverables for members on economic instruments**

#### **a) European EPR Club (NEW)**

The concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is at the centre of the evolution of the European waste and resources policies. There are many initiatives in the different Member States concerning new waste flows (textile, paper, furniture, oils, medicines, etc) and there are also huge variations and new debates concerning the existing schemes (packaging, WEEE, batteries...).

ACR+ proposes to create a European EPR Club gathering the different stakeholders (public authorities at all levels, EPR schemes, waste management companies, material federations, NGOs) and allowing a dialogue about the EU policy developments and technical implementation of EPR schemes throughout Europe. It will both focus on existing EPR schemes and future perspectives.

The EPR Club would be mainly a web-based interactive focal point with private area and regular webinars with a key event at the end of 2012. The EPR Club would start its activities at the beginning of the year 2012.

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#### **b) New publication about Economic Instruments in support of the waste hierarchy in 2013**

Based namely on the work of the Observatory and the EPR Club, ACR+ will publish a reference report presenting a European overview of economic instruments, their role in



support of the waste hierarchy and the financial aspects of waste management (funding and costs)

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## 2.4. Euro-Mediterranean network for waste management (ACR+ MED)

In 2012, ACR+ will try to concretize its efforts of developing an **ACR+ MED network** with cities and regions from the south and east of the Mediterranean area, with the objectives of:

- **Building capacities of public authorities** with regard to waste management and sustainable life styles
- Exchanging information and expertise concerning **solutions** adapted to local technical, legal and financial contexts.
- Elaborating a guide for local authorities “Practical steps to reach 50 % recycling at local level”

### Main activities and strategy of integration or collaboration with the network activities ACR+ MED

#### **a) GODEM project**

ACR+ is a partner in the GODEM project (Optimised Waste Management in the Mediterranean) is funded in the frame of the EU program CIUDAD, and is led by the Brussels-Capital Region. It involves some pilot projects like the creation of a composting centre & integrated waste management complaint centre, the organization of informal collection chains, the setting up of a civic amenity center for recyclables and a plan of action for hotel waste and environmental management. In addition, GODEM aims at launching the base for the creation of a network of local authorities on waste management in the Med Area. The project ends in June 2012.

The next upcoming events for GODEM are:

- 24-25 January 2012: 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference in Sousse (Tunisia)
- May 2012: release of the GODEM webtool
- November 2012: Final International Conference in Mahdia (Tunisia)

More details about this project: <http://www.acrplus.org/godem>

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#### **b) Horizon 2020 project**

The “Horizon 2020 Capacity building programme” is a project funded under the ENPI Mediterranean Environment Program (EuropeAid). ACR+ is the key thematic expert for waste management. A range of **capacity building training sessions** and study visits will be



carried out under the responsibility of ACR+ in 2011 and 2012. Interested ACR+ Members are welcome to be involved as experts, under specific funding conditions.

2012-2013 upcoming trainings:

8 to 10 trainings are planned in 2012 (details will follow) and a database of training materials will be published:

Sub-Regional Capacity Building Activities:

- Procedures: tendering and monitoring, Lebanon
- Cross border management, Western Balkan countries

National Capacity Building Activities:

- Generating electricity from waste/new technologies in waste management, Egypt
- New packaging law linked with clean technologies, Israel
- Landfill IRWM and leachate river system, Jordan
- Effective evaluation of performance, cost, recovery, visibility and sustainability of projects, Palestine
- Local authorities, Morocco
- Local authorities, Syria

More details about this project: [www.acrplus.org/horizon2020](http://www.acrplus.org/horizon2020)

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### c) ACR+ MED network

It is proposed to launch **ACR+ MED with specific objectives and activities** as described in the dedicated manifest and charter available at [www.acrplus.org/acrmed](http://www.acrplus.org/acrmed)

All interested members of ACR+ will constitute the “ACR+MED” network. They would constitute thematic working groups on the following topics:

1. The global strategic approach of problems linked to waste
2. The management of organic waste
3. The separation of waste at source
4. The relationship between the informal and formal sector regarding waste management

The proposed tasks schedule is the following:

- December 2011: call for interest
- November 2012: official launch of the ACR+ MED network as part of ACR+ in the first step and signature of the Founding Charter by a significant number of South-Mediterranean cities and regions
- 2012: Establish a specific programme of activities and associated functioning and funding for ACR+ MED network after the starting period

More details about this project: [www.acrplus.org/acrmed](http://www.acrplus.org/acrmed)

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## 2.5. Information services and networking

ACR+ keeps following the evolution of the European policy on waste and resources in order to analyze its impact on local and regional authorities and inform its Members on upcoming changes. ACR+ also acts as stakeholder with European institutions aiming to make concerns and specificities of local authorities well heard.

In this respect, ACR+ pursues to strengthen the steady dissemination of technical information for all related matters to its Members:

- **ACR+ Events and Working Groups** on specific topics, where ACR+ Members are partners
- **ACR+ Technical Reports** on specific topics, where ACR+ Members are partners
- **Warmer Bulletins**, a bi-monthly journal on sustainable waste management, featuring ACR+ editorials
- **ACR+ Newslines** for weekly e-news
- ACR+ **website** and in particular the “members-only” content and area which will be expanding in 2012 with the constant update of the waste prevention database and the virtual library
- **ACR+ Updates**, quarterly announcements of ACR+ activities and events
- **ACR+ e-Meetings** for virtual gatherings (ie: working groups or Board of Directors meetings)
- Exclusive documentation centre (**ACR+ virtual library**) offering ACR+ Members permanent access to a selection of reports, articles and selected statistics. Visit [www.acrplus.org/virtual\\_library](http://www.acrplus.org/virtual_library).
- Regular **Webinars**, allowing Members to participate in online seminars given by external or internal experts on selected topics.

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