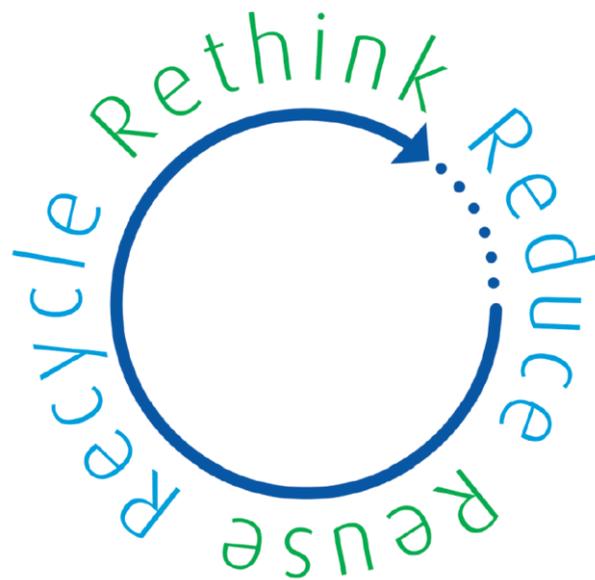




# ACR+

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2018



Brussels | December 2018

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## 2018 – A year in review

This document offers an overview of ACR+ activities during the year 2018. As last year, climate change and circular economy were very present at global political stage. But on top of that, the “Plastics issue” and the pollution of our oceans were the most discussed topics around the European headquarters... ACR+ made this its priorities throughout 2018, in particular when co-organising the EPR Club international conference at the European Parliament on “Marine litter: What role for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?”, when being a member of the Coalition Calling for a binding Recycled Content Targets in Beverage Bottles last summer or when publishing its report on Depositi Refund System at the end of the year. ACR+ kept showing the importance of involving local and regional authorities in all types of discussion on circular economy in general and on plastics pollution in particular.

Despite several changes and movements in the Secretariat staff, 2018 has been another successful year for ACR+. Our network is a well established partner and recurrent invitee at European level and beyond when circular economy is on the menu. This direction will of course be kept in the future years, always making sure to increase skills and knowledge within the network to better serve members and share their voices at European and international level.

### Welcoming new members

The exchange of experiences between ACR+ members is one of the strengths of the network as public authorities are often facing similar challenges in their transition to a circular economy. To enrich the range of experiences to be found, it is important that new members join the network. In 2018, 15 new members joined ACR+: IBOGEM (BE), Epirus Region (GR), Fryslan (NL), The Hague (NL), Municipality of Prato (IT), Torres Vedras (PT), Viana do Castelo (PT), Vitrus Ambiente (PT), ALDA (EU), Environment Eco-sain (MA), FADI (RO), Formació i Treball (ES), Foundation Projecta (BG), University of Deusto (ES), Venice International University (IT).

In December 2018 ACR+ counted 104 members in 22 countries.

### General Assembly 2018

ACR+ General Assembly 2018 took place on 28 May in Porto, successfully hosted by LIPOR. During this General Assembly, ACR+ Board of Directors was renewed. ACR+ Board of Directors for 2018-2020 is composed by: the cities of Paris, Genoa, Odense, Porto Metropolitan area (LIPOR), North London (NLWA), as well as the Eastern-Midlands Region (EMRWO), Brussels region, Catalonia (ARC), Zero Waste Scotland and WasteServ Malta.

The newly elected Board of Directors appointed Iain Gulland, Chief executive of Zero Waste Scotland, as President of the network for a two-year mandate. He is assisted in his mission by two Vice-Presidents, Fernando Leite, CEO of LIPOR, and Josep Maria Tost i Borràs, Director of the Catalan Waste Agency. The three men are teaming-up to support ACR+'s work on circular economy and to increase capacities of local authorities regarding resource efficiency.

Small discussion groups were organised during the General Assembly for members to exchange on the following topics: waste and tourism; linking sustainable resource management and smart cities; sustainable resource management in buildings; circular economy indicators. The full summary of the discussions is available in the member space.

The conclusions of the General Assembly and discussion group session stated amongst other things that ACR+ Members are sometimes not aware of all the activities developed and implemented by ACR+

Secretariat, although some could reply to their needs. ACR+ Secretariat is thus developing solutions to improve the communication around its projects and activities. Another element highlighted is the need for best practices to be shared. Tools are already developed by ACR+ to collect best practices (for example with the Circular Europe Network or in the framework of European projects), but the Secretariat will work further on how to capitalise on these tools and publish reports.

### Changes in ACR+ team

In 2018, ACR+ team went through several changes as some employees embraced new projects in their personal lives. It has also been decided to reinforce the administrative team so more time and resources could be allocated to communications. As a result, new team members joined ACR+ which counts with 11 permanent staff and 2 assistants. The full team is presented on [ACR+ website](#).

### Focus on...

For the second year, ACR+ focused on facilitating the transmission of expertise to and between ACR+ members, capitalising on projects and sharing existing experiences. This was translated by a rich programme of webinars and events involving several ACR+ members.

### Calls and future projects

During 2018 ACR+ has replied to several calls for projects. The aim is to anticipate coming years and participate in innovative projects in terms of circular economy and waste management to address ACR+ members' needs and help them finding funding to implement innovative actions on their territories. One proposal has been successful, others not. The following project will start in 2019

- **CircPro**: That project focuses on circular procurement. It is led by the Dutch ministry of environment and brings together 8 public and 3 private sector organisations that will leverage at least 30 circular procurement pilots. Each pilot aims to reduce 20-25% raw materials, waste and CO2 emissions. Transnationally CircPro organises: 1. Procurer-to-Procurer Learning and Action Programme, 2. CP expert task forces and 3. transnationally & cross-industry communities of practice. CircPro focuses on three pivotal scaling strategies 1) Minimum Circularity Requirements to help building markets of scale for suppliers, 2) transnational & cross-industry communities of practice to build new and sustained partnerships between procurers, suppliers and the supply chain and 3) learning and practical collaboration between procurers.

Other calls have been prepared in 2018 and are still under study. In particular, **LIFE-RETHINKWASTE** (to promote PAYT schemes and carry out experimentations of so called KAYT - Know As You Throw), **LCA4Regions** (to contribute to a more effective implementation of environmental policy instruments by the application of Life Cycle Methodologies), **SMART WASTE** (to support innovation both technological and process innovation in waste management), **WEEE Collect** (to improve regional and local policies to maximize the collection, recycling, recovery and prevention of WEEE), **EURE** (to support a better articulation between local policy instruments and ERDF Article 7, mentioning that Member States must allocate at least 5% of their national ERDF to the support of sustainable urban development integrated strategies), **GoWEST** (focusing on excavated material: public construction, mining, dredging), **Upcycle your Waste** (to accelerate the adoption of circular business cases by SMEs that transform waste flows into resources at local level), **PlasticSoupSolutions** (to sustainably collect marine plastics from sea and shore in the 2Seas region and to significantly increase the recycling rates).

## Livening up the network

*ACR+ is, first and foremost, a network of (and for) members. It is thus important to guarantee continuous and quality services to members and reinforce their involvement in the network. In 2017, a specific attention was given to the transfer of knowledge and the capitalisation on projects as well as fully reinforcing ACR+ role of bridge between its members.*

### 1.1. Continuity of existing services

- **General and technical information**

A key service of ACR+ to its members is to offer them regular updates regarding the latest developments in the world of material resource management. Thus, in 2018 as during the previous years, ACR+ sent to its members several information letters. This includes **the Newslines**, a weekly newsletter gathering updates about ACR+ activities, news from members as well as news from different countries in the field of material resource management, and **the EU Digest**, offering a thorough overview of the news from the European institutions.

ACR+ also publishes **in-depth reports and studies** on topical issues with updated data, building on the Secretariat's and members' expertise, and linked with the projects carried out by ACR+. In 2018, ACR+ published a report on [Operational Circular Economy Criteria for SMEs](#). Another in depth study that has been carried in 2018 covers the important topic of [Deposit-Refund Systems in Europe](#). This study has led to a report that will be published in the early days of 2019.

Last but not least, ACR+ gives to its members the possibility to **request more detailed and in-depth information** on a specific topic and receive (after discussion and agreement) additional support.

In **2018**,

**42**  
Newslines  
sent



to  
**+520**  
recipients



opened in average  
by **19.5%**  
of recipients



**2** EU Digests  
published



**28** Pages  
to read  
in total



**22** downloads  
in total



**1** report  
published




### Operational Circular Economy Criteria for SMEs (June 2018)

This report is based on a study commissioned by the public economic agency of the Brussels-Capital Region. It suggests an approach for local and regional authorities to recognise circular companies while taking into consideration the fact that circular economy is de facto plural and covers multiple facets. It offers a multi-criteria grid that can be fulfilled completely or partially by companies according to the reality of their activities.

- **Projects and events**

ACR+ supports its members in building up projects during different stages of the process. During the preparation, ACR+ can help its members **find the right partners for a strong consortium or give its written support to the project proposal**. In addition, when entering into a project ACR+ always assesses if it will be of particular interest to its members and pushes for the inclusion of ACR+ members as partners in the consortium. Support (under specific conditions) is also offered to ACR+ members for the organisation of events.



In March 2018, ACR+ co-organised and acted as a moderator in an international conference held in Porto on “Regions, Cities and Organisations promoting Circular Economy”.

In May 2018, ACR+ co-organised in collaboration with CITEO a conference in Brussels on Smarter, Greener Cities : from waste to resources



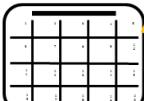
In November ACR+ together with Zero Waste Europe co-organised a conference in Brussels during the 2018 EWWR edition and the Brussels Zero Waste Year.

- **Promotion and visibility**

ACR+ members have the opportunity **to increase their visibility** as well as receive support for the dissemination of their projects. ACR+ relays its **members’ news** in the Newline (monthly section “Eyes on Members” and regular section “Members’ news”), on the **website** (section “Members’ news”, also featured on the homepage), in the **events calendar** and on its **Twitter** account. Members are warmly invited to send the ACR+ Secretariat their different news, events and updates.

In **2018**,  
there have been

**155**  
News from   
members published  
in the Newline

**7** Events from  
members on  
 ACR+ calendar

Once a month, the Newline includes an article presenting more in details one of its members, the so-called “**Eyes on Members**”. In 2018, the following members have been presented:

- Wasteserv Malta
- Cleantech Region
- EMULSA
- AMIU
- Odense
- Maastricht
- LIPOR
- North London Waste Authority
- Greater Pamplona Area Council
- Bruxelles-Capital Region

ACR+ also promotes its members during **conferences and events**. Indeed, when requested to share good practices and experiences regarding a specific project, ACR+ first looks at what is or has been done by its members.

- ACR+ and its member LIPOR organised in Porto on 21 March 2018 an International conference on circular economy involving Brussels Environment, Orée, Zero Waste Scotland, Wcycle Maribor and AMIU
- ACR+ and its member CITEO organised on 22 May 2018 a conference in Brussels on waste collection and sorting during the event Smarter, Greener cities: from waste to resource
- Several ACR+ members were promoted during workshops organised during the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, in particular CleanTech Region, Navarra, EMWR, Wcycle Maribor and Zero Waste Scotland
- The EWWR was held in Brussels during the week 17-25 November 2018 and involved ACR+ and Brussels environment, as well as SYBERT, LIPOR and Catalan waste agency

## Improvement of the website

The ACR+ website is regularly updated and a specific attention is given to the **visibility of its members and their activities**. On the website members can find information on the projects in which ACR+ is involved, upcoming (and past events), as well as news from the other members.

In 2018 following an assessment and discussion with ACR+ Board of Directors, ACR+ website was redesigned to **improve the access to information and facilitate the browsing of the website**. Amongst the improvements:

- Refreshment of the general look to give more space and enhance the visual aspect of the website;
- Adaptation of the website to a responsive design, making it suitable for portable devices
- Complete change of the Member space to better meet the needs and expectations of members. It includes:
  - An upgraded virtual library working with a system of tags and key-words
  - A Forum to allow ACR+ members to directly exchange and post messages

It was also foreseen to add a database of members (providing key information on each member such as the number of inhabitants, the activities developed, etc.), however the launch of this part had to be delayed due to the changes in ACR+ team. It is postponed to the second half of 2019.

The new ACR+ website has been launched in May 2018 for the General Assembly while the Forum has been opened in July 2018. It has to be noted that only 48 users connected to the Member Space during 2018.

## 1.2. Transfer of knowledge

Years of experience enabled ACR+ to build-up a **strong knowledge database**, always enhanced through the participation in projects and ACR+ members' activities. As mentioned in the introduction, the focus for 2018 was to increase the transfer of existing knowledge. Thus and for the second year, ACR+ is offering to its members **monthly webinars** for them to increase their knowledge from the comfort of their office. For those who could not attend the webinars, recordings are available on ACR+ website, in the Members space. There, members can also find the presentations made during the webinars. The following webinars took place in 2018:

The following webinars took place:

- Possibilities of decentralised bio-waste management through local composting (18 January 2018) – via BCN Ecologia;
- Boosting separate collection of paper and board for recycling (15 February 2018)
- Urban Waste (27 February, 9 April, 17 May 2018) on the topic of Gender sensitive communication
- Bridging climate action and circular economy (14 March 2018) – via The Climate Chance Coalition on Circular Economy
- Urban Waste (18 April 2018) on Food waste tracking
- Operational Circular Economy criteria, a must to finance circular economy SMEs (26 April 2018) – with Circular Europe network
- FISSAC: Social aspects of industrial symbiosis (31 May 2018) – with OVAM, Partners for Innovation, Malmö University
- Textile collection in European cities (14 June 2018) – with PlanMiljø, Rijkswaterstaat, City of Antwerp
- Working for a circular bioeconomy at local and regional level (26 June 2018)
- Play your (Circular) business (20 July 2018) – via Cofindustria per I Giovani
- Building sustainable food systems in cities with TRiFOCAL ( 24 October 2018) – with Eastern-Midlands waste region and Wrap
- Urban Waste (20 November 2018) on Communicating good practices and innovative measures to appropriate target groups

### 1.3. Follow-up of European legal activities

On 19 July 2018, ACR+ has co-signed a "[Call for EU Action on Recycled Content Mandates for Plastics](#)". More than 30 organisations and companies, including two ACR+ members, Retorna and Reloop, called the EU to **move beyond voluntary requirements and adopt legislation that imposes recycled content mandates for new plastic products** as without it there is not enough incentive for products manufacturers to shift from using virgin to recycled plastic feedstock and thus move to a circular economy.

Later, on 21 November 2018, ACR+ confirmed its commitment by co-signing a second "[Call to support binding recycled content targets in beverage bottles](#)" which urged the European Council to **support the binding target of at least 35% recycled plastic in beverage bottles by 2025**. This target, voted by the European Parliament on 24 October 2018, is “instrumental” in the achievement of the objectives of the Single Use Plastics (SUP) Directive and in igniting the “much supported” transition towards a more circular economy, the coalition says. Signatories of the call also believe that it would be a “historical step”,

correcting a “much overdue market failure” to not value recycled material more while unlocking much needed investment in collection and recycling.



In 2018, ACR+ took part to the stakeholder workshop for the ‘EU Product Policy Framework Supportive of the Circular Economy’ focusing on furniture (10/09/2018), aiming to develop a sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and competitive economy.



ACR+ took an active role in the annual conference of the **European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform** (ECESP) in February, and contributed to the discussions held by ECESP coordination group, in particular regarding the ECESP work programme, during meetings held in February and October, as well as cooperation with other participants of the coordination group.



ACR+ contributed to the preparation and implementation of several actions of the **Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy** (UAPCE), in particular through exchange of information about circular economy indicators, regulatory barriers and drivers to boost a circular bioeconomy, or guidance for circular re-use of urban buildings and spaces.



ACR+ is one of the experts of the “technical working group for the EMAS sectorial reference document on best environmental management practices for the waste management sector” organised by the Joint Research Centre (JRC). It participated to the second meeting held in Seville on 28-29/03/2017 and delivered a presentation on the current challenges of municipal waste monitoring.

As a partner of a consortium within DG Environment’s Waste Framework Contract, ACR+ took part to a study focusing on establishing a methodology for the reporting of reuse of product and the reporting of reusable packaging to be delivered in early 2019, as well as a study focusing on guidelines for separated collection to be finalised in mid 2019.

# Awareness raising and communication

*Ensuring a better integration of resource efficiency within national, regional and local strategies requires not only to change policies but also to change people's behaviour. This is why raising awareness is an essential part of sustainable material resource strategies, with the inclusion of effective and comprehensive activities targeting also sustainable consumption. ACR+, through its works linked to awareness-raising and communication provides its members with concrete experiences and examples of actions participating in a change of behaviour within societies through the promotion of the multi-R approach.*



## 2.1. The European Week for Waste Reduction



The **European Week for Waste Reduction** (EWWR) aims to raise awareness on waste prevention through the implementation of actions about sustainable resource and waste management during one single week. From 2009 to June 2017, the EWWR was funded under the LIFE+ Programme of the European Commission, first under the coordinator of ADEME, then of ACR+ from 2013, with several ACR+ members as partners in the project.

At the end of June 2017, ACR+ successfully brought the LIFE+ project to its conclusion and **the LIFE+ programme financing of the EWWR ended**. Nonetheless **the EWWR has been maintained and continued its mission to reduce waste under the supervision of its new EWWR Steering Committee** (find out more [here](#)) which includes several ACR+ members and is managed by ACR+.

### Activities in 2018

The EWWR continued to grow and thrive in 2018, showing that the momentum built up during the years when the project was supported by funding from the Life+ Programme have secured its position and continuity as a key initiative to raise awareness and mobilise action to prevent and reduce waste at source across Europe.

As in previous years, ACR+ once again assumed the role of the European Technical Secretariat for the EWWR, providing support to the EWWR Coordinators and Action Developers, ensuring the promotion and communication, as well as the organisation of annual European EWWR Awards. As in 2017, the EWWR was supported and guided by its Steering Committee, which this year consisted of 12 members in total.

The **EWWR Awards Ceremony** took place on **22 May 2018**, during the EU Green Week, hosted by the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels, where the Jury revealed the names of the most outstanding awareness-raising actions implemented during the 2017 edition of the EWWR. The Commissioner for Environment, Karmenu Vella, Michel Lebrun (European Committee of the Regions) and Josep Maria Tost i Borràs (ACR+ former President, Catalan Waste Agency) opened the Ceremony and welcomed the participants to this great EWWR celebration.

In September, registrations opened for the **2018 edition of the EWWR**, which took place from 17 to 25 **November 2018** and saw yet another record broken with a total number of **14,347** actions registered across 30 countries.

This year marked the **10<sup>th</sup> edition** of the EWWR. Over the past 10 years the EWWR has gone from strength to strength, reaching millions of people across more than 40 countries, and preventing thousands of tonnes of waste from being generated.

In order to organise the EWWR 2018 on their territories, **32 Coordinators across 20 countries** promoted the initiative and mobilised a varied range of stakeholders with the aim of reaching the greatest number of people. In 2018 the EWWR welcomed a **several new coordinators**, including the Municipality of Rabat in Morocco, contributing to spread the EWWR spirit beyond Europe.

The thematic focus of the year was **hazardous waste prevention**. EWWR encouraged Action Developers to think about ways to detox and diminish the use of toxic products in their nearest surroundings such as bathrooms, kitchens, sheds and garage. To promote this theme, ACR+ produced a new poster and factsheets as resources for Coordinators and Action Developers.

#### Promotion of Brussels during the project:

In 2018 Brussels was once again a key actor in the European Week for Waste Reduction, both in terms of its organisation and participation in activities. Bruxelles Environnement –Leefmilieu Brussel, the public administration for the environment and energy in the Brussels-Capital Region was a member of the EWWR steering committee. A total of 65 validated actions were registered in Brussels, including a Zero Waste Fair with DIY workshops, panel debates and stands. The event gathered many of Brussels' actors active in zero waste and was a huge success, attracting several thousand visitors. Brussels was also the location for two events organised by ACR+ in the framework of the EWWR – an international conference on organic waste which brought together experts, policy-makers and activists, as well as a debate on marine litter which took place in the European Parliament.

[www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu)

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## Operational instruments and monitoring

*The waste hierarchy highlights waste prevention, together with preparing for reuse and materials recycling, as the highest priorities when setting up a waste management strategy, before any other recovery and disposal alternatives. The European law and political orientations set obligations and guidance in order to reach a high level of performance regarding those first three steps of the waste hierarchy, with the aim of finding a concrete implementation at the national, regional and local level.*

*ACR+ works on several projects in order to measure waste prevention (potential targets, quantitative results, indicators, impact) and improve waste data on selective collection and recycling. It provides guidance and good practices on waste prevention and waste management to help its members improving their expertise regarding collection and treatment alternatives.*

### 3.1. European Observatory of Waste Management Performances



The collection of quantitative data concerning waste management at local and regional levels in Europe and the links with recycling performance rates and good waste management practices and techniques, is an important ACR+ activity. The subject is complex but a high interest has been shown for identifying quantitative recycling targets and best practices, particularly in view of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC and the new targets for recycling proposed in the EU Waste Package.

The European Observatory will take advantage of COLLECTORS' data collection to continue its analyses on waste collection and recycling. In 2018, some preliminary works on data verification were conducted and a first analysis of the database on paper and packaging waste will be proposed within 2019.

[www.acrplus.org](http://www.acrplus.org)

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## 3.2. DECISIVE



**DECISIVE** – A DECentralised management Scheme for Innovative Valorisation of urban biowaste – aims to **help with the reform of urban waste management systems for our ever-growing cities and populations**. This project will look to alter the current urban metabolism for organic matter, energy and biowaste, to a more circular economic model and to assess the impacts of these changes on the whole waste management cycle.

Three ACR+ members are also partners in this project: the Catalan Waste Agency (ARC), Fundacio ENT and SUEZ.

In 2018, the consortium mainly worked on three elements:

- The further development of **the technical solutions**: micro-anaerobic digestion, Stirling engine, and Solid-State Fermentation processes
- The development of **decision-support outputs** to develop decentralised biowaste management systems resorting to anaerobic digestion.
- **The preparation of the implementation of two demonstration sites** in Lyon, France, and Barcelona, Spain;

ACR+ also developed [a video to present the project](#) in a concise and attractive way to non-expert audiences.

Regarding **the technical solutions**, all the prototypes defined by the project were made available by the end of 2018. The micro-AD prototype was developed by Irstea and is currently being teste and optimised. The SSF reactor (that will convert part of the digestate into bio-pesticide) is now ready and will be successively used by both demonstration sites. The Stirling engine (to be used to recover the methane produced by the microAD plant) is complete and is being tested in order to increase its efficiency.

A Decision-support tool (DST) is being developed and will be made available in early 2019. It will enable territories to plan and design a decentralised bio-waste management system were defined, but also to compare its results with other biowaste management schemes (both centralised and decentralised systems). The first version was proposed in September 2018 and could be tested by the members of the consortium. ACR+ presented its **report on the "[State-of-the-art of communication materials and incentive methods for improving biowaste](#)", examining existing guidelines and good practices on food waste prevention and sorting focusing on households and restaurants**. It also included benchmarking elements that will be integrated in the DST.

The French **demonstration site** will be located at an urban farm in the outskirts of Lyon, where constant tests and measurements are taking place at the moment in order to obtain certain permits and also ensure minimal impact on the neighbouring residential area. The Catalan site will be located at the campus of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Both are planning to process food waste from restaurants and collective catering services. ACR+ will assist them on the communication and incentives part, to ensure a proper participation of waste producers. First contacts with the waste producers were conducted for both demonstration sites,

The implementation of both demonstration sites was delayed due to various challenges (administrative processes, identification of proper technical solutions...). They will start within the first semester of 2019 and will allow the production of actual data on micro-anaerobic digestion and solid state fermentation processes.

The next meeting of the consortium will be held in April 2019 in Brussels, and a focus group meeting will be organised to discuss current legal barriers for decentralised biowaste systems.

Promotion of Brussels during the project: Brussels has been proposed by ACR+ as one of the possible 10 case study to simulate the implementation of the DECISIVE systems in various contexts.

The articles and regular updates can also be found on the project's [website](#).

[www.decisive2020.eu](http://www.decisive2020.eu)

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09/2015 –  
09/2020

### 3.3. FISSAC



The **FISSAC project** – Fostering Industrial Symbiosis for a Sustainable Resource Intensive Industry across the extended Construction Value Chain – aims to develop and demonstrate a new paradigm built on an innovative industrial symbiosis model towards a zero waste approach in the resource intensive industries of the construction value chain, tackling harmonised technological and non-technological requirements, leading to material closed-loop processes and moving to a circular economy.

In June 2018, FISSAC published its latest [newsletter](#), highlighting the project's progress in the past semester towards the development of a new industrial symbiosis model. Having **finalised the evaluation of innovative processes** to manufacture cement based products, ceramic tiles and rubber wood plastic using secondary raw materials, the **FISSAC** consortium is now working on **completing the prototyping and validation of the new products**, which should be done by the end of the year. Following this, project partners will tackle a big challenge towards the development of a new symbiosis model: the **industrial production and real scale demonstration**.

They are also in a good path to reach another important objective of the project with the **development of a Symbiosis IT Platform**. Since August 2018, a **demo version implementing the project scenarios is under test**. Further developments of the platform, which seems to be very promising, were discussed by project

partners during the 7th FISSAC General Assembly, held in Istanbul on 21 and 22 November 2018. The discussion was fed with several “out of the box” creative inputs from participants of the last Living Lab that took place in Prague, Czech Republic, on 20 September 2018.

In addition to the dissemination of activities, ACR+ is focusing on some **social aspects of industrial symbiosis** for the FISSAC project, recently discussed in a [webinar](#), namely:

- Sustainable Development Goals and how they are related to industrial symbiosis;
- The holistic approach of the SDGs and the interconnected goals;
- The need to separate two different processes when setting up the collaboration needed to create a successful and supportive Living Lab environment;
- Industrial symbiosis beyond technical cooperation, with a focus on job opportunities and business culture.

[www.fissacproject.eu](http://www.fissacproject.eu)

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### 3.4. URBANREC



**URBANREC** – New approaches for the valorisation of URBAN bulky waste into high added value RECYCLED products – aims to **develop and implement eco-innovative and integral bulky waste management systems**, as well as demonstrate their effectiveness in different regions. The project will be looking at Northern, Mediterranean, and Eastern and South-Eastern areas of Europe, which differ greatly in urban waste recycling rates. The project offers to improve the separation and

disassembling of bulky waste through the implementation of advanced fragmentation techniques to obtain high quality raw materials.

ACR+ members OVAM and Warsaw are also partners of this project.

2018 started with a positive evaluation of the project’s progress during a review meeting by EASME in February. Several **project meetings** also took place in 2018: in Kortrijk and Mechelen, Belgium, hosted by CENTEXBEL, IMOG, OVAM, PROCOTEX and VANHEEDE in February; in Bordeaux, France, hosted by Rescoll in June, and Grafenberg, Germany, hosted by RAMPF in November. These meetings gave the opportunity to take stock of the **advancement of the project** and its demonstrators, for instance on bulky waste app and customer portal in civic amenity sites, fragmentation of bulky waste via catalytic hydro-gasification with plasma, and the production of composites made of textile, plastic and wood. At this stage, the technologies and processes for bulky waste recycling and treatment are being finalised and their implementation and assessment are ongoing. The results will be presented during the project final conference in autumn 2019.

In April 2018, the discussions of the **Legal Working Group** managed by ACR+ focused on the [hurdles faced by industrial stakeholders to introduce recycled plastic](#) on the market. This third meeting was complemented by a survey to reach a higher number of stakeholders involved in the topic. The answers analysed by ACR+ enabled to refine and confirm the priorities of the sector stakeholders. Another **survey** has been launched in December focusing on the [legal barriers to market uptake of recycled textiles](#). Put altogether, the results of the Legal Working Group activities will feed the future **URBANREC guidelines on bulky waste management system and recommendations for a European legislation on bulky waste**. ACR+ is in charge of drafting the guidelines and already shared a draft version of the document to collect feedback from the partners.

Dissemination is also an important part of ACR+'s involvement in the project. In order to facilitate the transfer of technology and project results to the territories of the four regional partners in Belgium, Poland, Spain and Turkey, ACR+ implemented a **“train the trainer” session** providing guidance to these partners about how to prepare their regional trainings in 2019. In addition, ACR+ is in charge of the **coordination of communication activities** for the project. As such, ACR+ published **two newsletters in July and December** and monitored the communication actions of the partners, making sure that the project reaches a large and relevant audience.

[www.urbanrec-project.eu](http://www.urbanrec-project.eu)

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### 3.5. RE<sup>4</sup>



The **RE<sup>4</sup> project** – REuse and REcycling of materials and structures in energy efficient pREfabricated elements for building REfurbishment and construction – aims at the **development of a fully prefabricated energy-efficient building made of components containing up to 65% by weight of construction and demolition waste (CDW)-derived materials and structures**. RE<sup>4</sup> addresses the problem of 750 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste (CDW) generated every year in Europe of which below 50% are recovered. As such, the RE<sup>4</sup> project aims to develop new technologies and strategies for the design and development of structural and non-structural pre-fabricated elements with a high degree of recycled materials and reused structures from the partial or total demolition of buildings.

In the last months, the RE<sup>4</sup> project was presented in several international conferences on construction innovation and construction and demolition waste management, like the [33rd International CAE Conference and Exhibition](#) (Vicenza, Italy, 6 and 7 November 2017) and the [BUDMA - INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AND ARCHITECTURE FAIR](#) (Poznan, Poland, 2 February 2018). Furthermore, the scientific paper entitled [“Valorization of construction and demolition wastes: RE<sup>4</sup> building solutions”](#), was published on the on the open-access platform ProScience.

The project partnership is proud to present the RE4 project [graphic video](#), created by [FENIX TNT](#) and introducing RE4 objectives, concept, demosites and much more.

The fourth meeting of the project partners was held in Brussels on 20 June 2018, followed by a monitoring visit by EASME representatives who provided valuable suggestions for making future project actions more effective.

The updated project workplan approved during the project meeting set the agenda that will lead to the final realisation of the demonstration of the RE4 solutions, that will take place in two specifically constructed mock-ups (residential or non-residential demo buildings) in two different climatic regions (demo buildings in UK, Spain, Italy).

[www.re4.eu](http://www.re4.eu)

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## Legal and economic instruments

**Economic instruments are powerful tools to encourage more sustainable behaviour** from private and public sectors as well as from citizens/consumers. Although the local situation is always the first to be considered, it is also vital to be aware of the global framework, to know what is being done at national and European levels. Through its activities and network of experts, ACR+ examines the different possible systems (their benefits and drawbacks, the necessary accompanying measures to ensure their effectiveness, etc.) and provide data to determine what the most appropriate instruments could be, in link with set objectives.

ACR+ closely follows the evolution of the legislation in terms of economic instrument and analyses its impact at local level. The activities of the network mainly aim to support local authorities to prepare themselves and implement the legislation, and to select the regulatory instruments most suited to fulfil their obligations.

### 4.1. EPR Club



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

Since its creation in June 2012, the [EPR Club](#) has constantly grown in size and scope and today forms a real multi-stakeholder platform, including members from public authorities at all levels, Producer Responsibility Organisations, waste management companies, material federations, NGOs, and producers – providing a unique opportunity for dialogue. ACR+ members are associated members of the EPR Club and thus have full access to all activities of the EPR Club. **The aim of the EPR Club is to exchange views, to debate, and to improve knowledge about EPR policies and practices – with all stakeholders, including the European institutions.**

The main way to **promote and stimulate debates between EPR Club members** and with external partners is the organisation of regular events. Several lunch debates and an international conference were organised in 2018 and the topics were closely related to the ongoing revision of the EU legislation with links to EPR:

- [Eco-modulation](#) – EPR Club lunch debate on 5 March 2018 hosted by DSD, EXPRA and the ACR+ member SUEZ. Different actors along the value chain gathered to discuss key aspects of eco-modulation of EPR fees as an instrument to improve eco-design of packaging and products.
- [Cost coverage of littering](#) – EPR Club lunch debate on 15 May 2018 hosted by ACR+ and its member LIPOR. Following presentations of perspectives from municipalities, producer responsibility organisations and NGOs, participants engaged in an active debate around litter costs and how these are covered by EPR contributions, in particular as regards packaging.

- [Online retailing and free riders](#) – EPR Club lunch debate on 18 June 2018 hosted by Eucolight, EXPRA and WEEE Forum. The event focused on the challenge that EPR systems face in addressing free-riding in the online sales sector. Involving the European Commission and Member States authorities, as well as a major online retailers, participants discussed the current situation, possible solutions and next steps for relevant EU stakeholders.
- [Separate collection of textiles](#) – EPR Club lunch debate on 4 October 2018 hosted by ACR+. The event explored the role of EPR in implementing the requirement of separate collection of textiles in the new EU waste legislation. Speakers represented the perspectives of national authorities, the textile industry, the only EPR scheme for textiles in Europe, the European reuse sector and the European Commission.
- [EPR for addressing marine litter](#) – EPR Club annual International conference on 22 November 2018 organised by ACR+, DSD, EXPRA and the ACR+ member SUEZ. More than 120 participants gathered at the event held at the European Parliament in Brussels. Two panels, followed by rounds of open discussions between the speakers and the participants, focused on the circularity of packaging affecting marine litter and on sustainable product design to prevent microplastics.

[www.eprclub.eu](http://www.eprclub.eu)

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## 4.2. LIFE FUTURE



The [LIFE FUTURE project](#) – Sustainable Urban FURniTURE: Tool design to perform environmental assessments in the green procurement – aims to **promote green public procurement, focusing on the urban furniture sector** (street bins, benches, playgrounds, etc.). An online tool will be developed and validated during the project, the Green Urban Furniture Tool (GUF Tool) to support public bodies with the decision making related to the purchase of more environmentally friendly urban furniture

In 2017 the project consortium had been working on the **design and development of the GUF Tool**, completing the design of the tool structure and features as well as the graphical image and interface. After a trial period, the [GUF Tool](#) developed by the [LIFE FUTURE](#) partners is now **operative and ready to be used by all**. This online tool is facilitating the process of green public procurement in the field of urban furniture, both for public bodies and suppliers. It makes environmental criteria selection for urban furniture easier but also provides a tool for calculating and comparing the impacts these products have.

Before going live, the GUF Tool has been tested by two project partners, Las Naves for the city of Valencia and the city of Koprivnica. They both run a **real-life testing of the GUF Tool by purchasing urban furniture**

through a green public procurement facilitated by the GUF Tool. This is how 71 new benches have appeared in the street of Valencia last August 2018. Made of 100% of recycled material, these benches have been installed by the Department of Renewable Energies and Climate Change of Valencia City Council. The city of Koprivnica started its test process in September 2018. A first public procurement was launched for 10 benches made of combination of wood and metal while the second one enabled the acquisition of 30 waste bins made from the same combination of materials.

The launch of the GUF Tool was one of the last steps of the LIFE FUTURE project which will come to an end in December 2018. Before that, two additional documents will be published: **an assessment of environmental and economic impact of the GUF Tool** as well as a **report summarising and compiling all the results obtained and general information on the use of environmental criteria in urban furniture products**.

[www.life-future-project.eu](http://www.life-future-project.eu)

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### 4.3. LIFE SMART Waste



The project **Smarter Regulation of Waste in Europe** (LIFE SMART Waste) is an innovative pan-European partnership between key bodies involved with addressing waste crime. The goal of the LIFE SMART Waste project is to demonstrate **innovative ways of understanding, tackling and reducing waste-related crime**.

ACR+ member Brussels Environment is also a partner of the project.

ACR+ is involved in providing support to the European dissemination of the LIFE SMART Waste project and facilitating the involvement of stakeholders in the information hub that will be developed by the partners.

**LIFE SMART Waste** has partnered with Crimestoppers and a range of organisations to launch **a campaign to help tackle the issue of illegal dumping of waste in warehouses and farm buildings**.

The LIFE SMART Waste project selected the illegal warehousing of waste to **test a collaborative approach to design and implement waste crime interventions**. As a result of the collaboration, three interventions to reduce the incidence of warehousing in waste crime are planned, commencing with this communications intervention. As part of the communications initiative, key professional and representative bodies to alert

landlords, property owners and businesses to their obligations and responsibilities relating to waste warehousing and storage have been engaged. Land and property owners have a responsibility to ensure anyone leasing their land or property complies with existing regulations.

The [LIFE SMART WASTE](#) project consortium developed a **horizon scanning and predictive analysis tool** that can be used by regulators, investigators and intelligence analysts to develop their understanding of behavioural, market, technological and pollution trends in the waste sector.

In June 2018, **the project partnership issued an “Industry Representative report”**, aimed to communicate clearly project outcomes to external stakeholders and to start new fruitful cooperations with further public agencies and private waste operators.

The project has published a new [Horizon Scanning Toolkit](#) that is designed to **help environmental regulators to build an early warning system for emerging developments in the waste sector to protect the industry from future criminal enterprise**. The toolkit was developed following a desk-top review of the academic and grey literature which focused on the specific context of horizon scanning applications to identify the salient features and success factors for their adoption in an environmental regulatory context.

It provides a **structured approach to horizon scanning** that builds a clear, consistent and shared perspective of emerging developments in the waste sector and their potential for criminal enterprise. By using the toolkit, regulatory bodies will **learn to spot newly emerging trends quickly** and to **assess what the emerging opportunities for future waste crime are likely to be**. They will then be able to act together to minimise the impact of those crimes on the environment, society and business

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#### 4.4. PPI4Waste



The project [Promotion of Public Procurement of Innovation for Resource Efficiency and Waste Treatment](#) (PPI4Waste) aimed at **promoting innovation in resource efficiency, waste prevention, reuse and recycling through procurement strategies** and supporting contracting authorities in undertaking procurement actions in waste new approaches and solutions. ACR+ was in particular in charge of **coordinating the dissemination and replication of the project**, and to provide support to its technical implementation. As from June 2017 and until end September 2017, ACR+ also took the **coordination of the project following** the termination of the previous coordinator, IAT, and brought it to a successful conclusion.

ACR+ continued to give visibility to the project's outputs after its conclusion via ACR+ participation and presentations in events, among which: Fostering the Transition towards a Circular Economy in Europe (February, Brussels); ERRIN conference on circular economy (May, Brussels); Waste4Think conference (June, Cascais); Recuwaste conference (October, Barcelona); Interinstitutional Green Public Procurement Helpdesk meeting (October, Brussels).

The main outputs of the projects are available online on [www.ppi4waste.eu](http://www.ppi4waste.eu).

## Strategy and planning

Strategy and planning are key aspects of the work of local and regional authorities when they are developing resource efficiency policies. In this field, ACR+ aims at helping its members to be ambitious when it comes to the development of material resource management strategies. It insists in particular on the necessity for several department and organisations to work together (not in silos) and adopt a comprehensive approach. This is becoming even more essential with the current circular economy trend. To inspire its members, ACR+ shares frontrunners expertise – amongst its network and outside – with its members.

### 5.1. Circular Europe Network



Building on 20 years of experience in sustainable resource management, ACR+ wanted to **reinforce the guidance already offered to local and regional authorities to support the development of inspiring strategies with regards to circular economy**. At the heart of the ACR+ approach, is the desire to create bridges between different public authorities and the will to raise awareness amongst local and regional authorities about the role that they have to play; as facilitators, in the economic development and transition. This ACR+ commitment has taken the form of the **Circular Europe Network** (CEN), a working group focusing on circular economy planning made up of ACR+ members and launched in November 2014.

- **Publications**

ACR+ published new guidance material on the Circular Europe Network (CEN) website in May 2018, on Circular Economy and public procurement. This thematic guidance covers three aspects: circular public procurement (CPP); public procurement of innovation (PPI) and resource efficiency; performance based criteria. The section on CPP translated and adapted the Roadmap Circular Procurement published by MVO Nederland and PIANOo, and included references to case studies and good practices published in the CEN database. The section on PPI capitalises on the work done within the PPI4Waste project on the various steps needed to efficiently implement Public Procurement of Innovation in the Waste Management Sector. The section on performance based criteria focuses on the main findings of the 2015 ACR+ study on Waste Performance Contracts.

ACR+ published in June a new report, entitled **Operational Circular Economy Criteria for SMEs**, based on a study commissioned by the public economic agency of the Brussels-Capital Region. It proposes a multi-criteria grid and thresholds beyond which an enterprise is considered as embracing the "circular economy". Available only to ACR+ members, this study suggests an approach for local and regional authorities to recognise circular companies while taking into consideration the fact that circular economy is de facto plural and covers multiple facets. It offers a multi-criteria grid that can be fulfilled completely or partially by

companies according to the reality of their activities. 3 types of criteria are illustrated: good practices criteria; business models; material flow.

Additionally, ACR+ continued its work on guidelines on sustainable food. These guidelines are being co-constructed by the ACR+ Secretariat together with ACR+ members, national/regional platforms on circular economy as well as a number of experts on the topic.

- **Factsheets**

Building on its 20 years of expertise, its involvement in projects linked to resource efficiency and circular economy, ACR+ has already published **180 factsheets on circular economy practices from cities and regions**, available only to ACR+ members. Some of the factsheets offer an overview of general circular economy strategies and governance at both local and regional levels, when other factsheets present more specific actions on circular economy. The database capitalises on ACR+ research but also on other European projects. Some of the latest factsheets published in 2018 include: several cases on instruments and programmes implemented in Scotland to support the transition to a circular economy (Resource Efficient Scotland service, Circular economy business support service, and Scottish Circular Economy Investment Fund). Other factsheets published recently address in particular the integration of waste collection points in the urban centre in Córdoba (ES), a flexible fee for selective waste collection in Bergen (NO), mobile waste collection points in Ibiza and Mallorca (ES), an underground waste collection system in Florence (IT), as well as paper recycling in Cádiz (ES), identified in the INTHERWASTE and IMPACTPapeRec projects.

- **Website**

The CEN website was launched at the end of 2015 and will be continuously updated and enriched with the deliverables of the CEN. It hosts in particular the **database of best practices on circular economy from cities and regions**. The factsheets are accessible via an interactive map on the homepage of the website. Users can browse through them using different criteria – Instruments, Business models and Resources – and as such can access a wide range of concrete cases. ACR+ members have access to the full version of the factsheets while unregistered users will see only short descriptions of them.

Upon navigating the site, users will also have access to reports and publications. For example, the CEN general guidelines on circular economy strategies, available in various languages, or the guidance material on circular economy and public procurement. The website is organised so as to provide quick and direct access for all users to information about the network and its activities, along with the possibility of viewing a summary of all available factsheets. A 2-level access enables anyone to get a minimum of information about the CEN activities (for instance summaries of best practice factsheets or a scanned version of the CEN guidelines), while the full content of the CEN deliverables is meant for ACR+ members only.

- **Collaborations**

ACR+ has been in contact with **several bodies and organisations active on circular economy** at national level in Europe, in particular its members the French Institute for Circular Economy (FR) and the Spanish Foundation for Circular Economy (ES), as well as other organisations like Circle Economy (NL), Circular Change (SI). These platforms collaborating with ACR+ are invited to join some of the CEN meetings in order to optimise knowledge transfer and cooperation between those various entities.

In 2018, ACR+ contributed to the work of the [European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform](#) (ECESP), as one of the members of the ECESP Coordination Group that ACR+ joined in 2017. Co-chaired by the

European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee, the ECESP **Coordination Group** includes 24 other organisations gathering the main stakeholders active in the field of circular economy (including national platforms on circular economy, international experts entities, regional authorities and private or public sector federations and associations).

Through the ECESP, ACR+ aims to facilitate knowledge transfer on circular economy towards its members and to promote the role of local and regional authorities as facilitators and key actors of the transition to a circular economy. ACR+ participated in the meetings of the Coordination Group held on 21 February 2018 and 18-19 October 2018. Discussions of the were in particular related to the organisation of the ECESP annual conference on 20 February 2018, the definition of the ECESP work programme and gave the opportunity to ACR+ to highlight its priorities and tighten its relations with other members of the coordination group.

ACR+ also contributed to the work of the [Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy](#) (UAPCE) that ACR+ joined in 2017. The UAPCE consists of six local and regional authorities (Oslo, The Hague, Prato, Porto, Kaunas and Flanders), four member states (Finland, Poland, Slovenia and Greece), the European Commission (DG REGIO, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG RTD, DG GROW and others as appropriate for consultation), and other organizations (CEMR, EUROCITIES, URBACT and EIB). Under the perspective of cities and urban environment, the UAPCE aims to identify, analyse, review and recommend the need for better regulation, better founding and better knowledge sharing to help cities foster the transition to a circular economy. ACR+ participated in UAPCE meetings in January 2018 and May 2018. ACR+ actively took part in the development of the action plan of the Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy that focuses on removing some of the regulatory, financial and knowledge barriers that cities face when building strategies on circular economy. ACR+ actively contributed to the preparation of some actions, covering diverse topics including among others circular economy indicators, circular city funding, economic incentives, urban resource centres, bioeconomy and collaborative economy.

In addition ACR+ has been **co-chairing the [Climate Chance](#) thematic coalition on circular economy** since 2016, together with its member Orée and CEMR. ACR+ participation in the coalition emphasized the role of local and regional authorities as key actors for a circular economy in the perspective of mitigating climate change. In 2017, ACR+ co-organised a forum on circular economy during the Climate Chance Summit 2017, which took place from 11 to 13 September in Agadir, Morocco. This key-event for non-state climate actors (local regional authorities, companies, NGOs, etc.) anticipated the COP23 and was based on the promotion of multi-stakeholder dialogue and concrete actions.

Finally, ACR+ was part of the **H2020 SCREEN project's Policy Lab**, aiming at supporting the identification and implementation of operational synergies between investments in research and innovation under Horizon 2020, the Structural Funds and the European Investment Funds, on topics related to circular economy. As such, ACR+ provided input on the SCREEN project approach and looked for opportunities to capitalise on the project finding, in particular the guidance material on how to identify local value chains, how to identify cross-regional synergies, how to finance cross-regional projects and how to assess projects' circularity.

[www.circular-europe-network.eu](http://www.circular-europe-network.eu)

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## 5.2. URBAN-WASTE



URBAN-WASTE – [Urban strategies for Waste Management in Tourist Cities](#) – endeavours to **support policy makers in answering to the challenges of booming tourism in European cities**, including high levels of unsustainable resource consumption and waste production. This project aims to help develop strategies aimed at reducing the amount of municipal waste production as well as strategies to further develop re-use, recycling, collection and disposal of waste.

Three ACR+ members are also partners of the project ORDIF (FR), Lisbon Municipality (PT) and Ambiente Italia (IT).

In general, 2018 was marked by the implementation phase the 11 pilot cities and regions were undertaking locally. From food waste reduction and adjusting local waste management practices to facilitating tourists' stays and making them more environmentally friendly, this phase was accompanied with major monitoring process which will eventually result in an appropriate impact assessment and be translated into guidelines put on disposal for other cities and regions and their city managers and policy makers for multiplying and reproducing these measures and strategies.

In order to help the 11 pilot cities and regions in increasing their knowledge on various topics, ACR+ facilitated 5 Mutual Learning events which served as capacity building activities, along with 2 webinars. Nice, Ponta Delgada, Kavala, Syracuse and Lisbon hosted these events which included a whole set of external speakers on the most various topics – biowaste management, food waste reduction, marine litter prevention, communication activities and much more. ACR+ managed to give visibility and opportunity to a number of its members to share their experiences and their good practices with the consortium, including Warsaw, Barcelona, North London Waste Authority and Worms.

The end of the year also saw a major announcement, as the project's Final Conference was decided to take place on 7 May in Brussels. Hosted and organised by ACR+ it will serve as a place and opportunity for showcasing all the achievements and successes the project had in front of a diverse audience, including EU institutions, waste associations based in Brussels, as well as travel and tourism ones and the general public.

The project consortium released several publications, namely **on tourist behaviours in regard to waste management and on waste management performances of the pilot cities and regions** before the implementation of the project. These publications can be found on the project's [website](#).

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## Cooperation and capacity building

ACR+ is working to enhance capacities of public authorities with regard to waste management and sustainable lifestyles, understand the specific requirements due to geographical situation and socio-cultural backgrounds, build dynamic partnerships amongst its members. The aim is to optimise transfer of knowledge and expertise to less experienced LRAs, exchange information and good practices concerning solutions adapted to local technical, legal and financial contexts. ACR+ works on cooperation and capacity building by expanding its network and welcoming more cities and regions from the South and East of the Mediterranean area through the implementation of specific projects.

### 6.1. BLUEISLANDS



The **BLUEISLANDS** project brings together 14 partners from 8 countries (representing 8 major and 55 smaller islands) in a systematic effort to properly identify, address and mitigate the effects of the seasonal variation of waste generation on MED islands as an effect of tourism.

ACR+ member Wasteserv Malta is one of the project partners.

ACR+ is in particular in charge of coordinating the project's communication activities, ensuring that synergies will be created with its other relevant projects, in particular UrBAN-WASTE and INTHERWASTE.

On 11 April 2018, the conference "**Towards a circular economy and sustainable tourism on islands**" was hosted at the European Parliament by the SEARICA Intergroup and ACR+. The different presentations of the different speakers are all available online. During the conference, Josep Maria Tost I Borràs, Director of Agencia de Residus de Catalunya and former ACR+ President, presented the "**Charter of Commitments for sustainable material resource management and circular economy**", launched in cooperation with the URBAN-WASTE project, as a tool to promote international cooperation. MEPs Gesine Meissner, Tonino Picula, Michela Giuffrida, Claudia Monteiro de Aguiar and Davor Skrlec signed the Charter to express their support, together with representatives of the Department of Environment of Cyprus, the Catalan Waste Agency, the Region of Crete, the Consell de Mallorca, Mykonos and Rhodes municipalities and the agency Wasteserv Malta.

**Between 31 May and 1 June 2018 the BLUEISLANDS project partners gathered in a meeting hosted by the Council of Mallorca.** Project partners discussed **the methodology to be applied for the waste characterisation study that will take place between June and November 2018 in 9 Mediterranean islands**, to determine the extent of seasonality in municipal solid waste generation as an effect of tourism.

In May 2018, **four free capacity building webinars** were organised especially for project partners and other interested stakeholders. The webinars focused on: Circular Economy, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Life Cycle Assessment and Sustainable Tourism. The recordings and presentations of the webinar are available [here](#).

The **BLUEISLANDS** project continued its work on the seasonal variation of waste on Mediterranean islands with a studying phase **aiming to measure the correlation between tourism and waste generation**. The analysis used **indicators such as quantification, waste type, and its composition** in order to evaluate

the **impact of marine litter on beaches**, seawaters and coasts relevant to micro plastics. During this phase partners sought to grasp the influence of waste water during the high season tourist peak through short-term microalgae deployments. The main activities were:

- **Marine litter surveys** and sand samples collection conducted on beaches of 8 islands of the Mediterranean during the low and high seasons. In parallel to the marine litter surveys conducted in 2017 on the 24 beaches of the 8 islands of the BLUEISLANDS project, sand samples were periodically collected as well to quantify and characterize the microplastics present in the sand. No matter the type of beach we consider, **the amount of microplastics found in the sand shows a clear seasonal pattern, with higher concentrations during the high touristic season and lower concentrations during the low touristic season.**
- **Monitoring of the quality of coastal seawater** carried out in Cyprus and Sicily. Monitoring of the quality of coastal seawater was carried out in Cyprus and Sicily through short-term macroalgae deployments to evaluate the presence and distribution of anthropogenic nutrients to evaluate the presence and distribution of anthropogenic nutrients.
- **Surface waters** collected and analysed.
- **Waste characteristics study:** the continuous collection of primary data about sources of waste, frequency, type and volume which started in June 2018.

As the coastal areas experienced the high touristic season, more surveys and sampling collection are taking place in all partner areas, through the analysis of which the aim is to define waste seasonal variation in measurable and comparable quantities and quality.

<https://blueislands.interreg-med.eu>

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## 8.1. INTHERWASTE



**INTHERWASTE**  
Interreg Europe



The **INTHERWASTE project** – Interregional Environmental Integration of Waste Management in European Heritage Cities – aims to **foster the exchange of experience and policies to improve local and regional policies for sustainable waste management in European Heritage Cities.** This objective will be reached through mutual capacity building, policy learning and drafting and monitoring of action plans.

One ACR+ member, Sanitation Cordoba (ES), is the lead partner of this project.

ACR+ is in particular in charge of providing its **technical expertise as a support of the project activities**, especially regarding the gathering and sharing of good practices and the crossed analysis of local implementation plans.

The year 2018 saw the end of the series of **its series of four thematic seminars** as the last one, on waste minimisation took place in Cordoba in June 2018. Just like for the previous three seminars implemented in

2017, ACR+ was responsible for providing technical support and also increasing the knowledge on these pre-defined topics. ACR+ members who were invited to join the Thematic Seminar in Cordoba, Fundacio ENT attracted a lot of attention and the subsequent phase of the project – the bilateral meetings - resulted in a study visit of even three project partners (Krakow, Cordoba and Porto) to Nice and their new recycling and reuse centre for bulky waste.

Following this series of thematic seminars and exchange of good practices, the INTHERWASTE partners visited each other and other cities which experiences were brought to light by ACR+ like Ghent and Metropole Nice – Côte d’Azur in order to get to know more about concrete cases. From this process, each INTHERWASTE pilot city selected some practices to be adapted to the local situation and drafted a local implementation plan aiming at improving resource efficiency on its territory. Five local plans have been produced, for the cities of: Cordoba, Porto, Krakow, Ibiza and Tallinn.

The good practices shared by the partners have been evaluated and compiled in a guide that will serve as the main source of knowledge about how to reduce, reuse and recycle in heritage cities. The good practice guide complements the project publication analysing the baseline situation in each pilot city.

Towards the end of the year, the project consortium met again in Tallinn, Estonia in order to present their draft action plans which contain the outlines of the implementation phase and the envisaged policy changes the 5 pilot cities will be undertaking during the next two years. Project partners were also briefed on the remaining deliverables in terms of communications output and activities, and were able to obtain guidance and advice on this. Most of the project’s communications activities are due to be finalised by the end of the current phase of the project.

[www.interregeurope.eu/intherwaste](http://www.interregeurope.eu/intherwaste)

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## 8.2. IMPACTPapeREC



**IMPACTPapeREC** – Boosting the implementation of participatory strategies on separate paper collection for efficient recycling – aims to **provide an innovative and common knowledge platform which will enable cooperation between the key stakeholders involved in the paper value chain**. This will also include an analysis of how and under which conditions individual best practices in Paper for

Recycling (PFR) collection and assessment procedures can be implemented, considering specific local conditions.

ACR+ member CITEO (formerly Ecofolio) is a partner in the project.

### 1. ACR+ Webinar Series

**Boosting separate collection of paper and board for recycling** (15 February 2018): this webinar presented the two **e-learning modules** on selective collection and recycling released by the **IMPACTPapeRec** project. It explained in details how ACR+ members can benefit from the outcomes of the project and **use the practical tools and concrete steps developed by IMPACTPapeRec for improving paper and board collection on their territory.**

### 2. Boost separate paper collection and recycling on your territory

The **IMPACTPapeRec** project has come to an end in January 2018. On this occasion, the partners gathered for a **final project conference on 24 January 2018** in Brussels. Entitled “Boosting separate paper collection”, the half-day conference provided an overview of the activities performed during the project’s lifetime including a detailed presentation of its main outcome – the **“Good and Best Practices Handbook”**.

Another key production of the project is the design of **two eLearning modules**, currently available online. Practical and engaging, they focus on two topics: **selective collection and recycling.**

With the first module, participants will discover subjects such as the **EU waste policy and legislation**, the **different types of collection systems**, and an **explanation of separate collection of paper and board for recycling**. The second module deals with **recycling**, explaining its **role in the circular economy** and in the EU waste policies and legislation. Participants will get familiar with **the different grades of paper**, the **European standard EN 643** on paper for recycling, and the different **steps of the recycling process**. Each lesson of both modules is accompanied by a **quiz** which will help participants assess their understanding of the lesson.

<http://impactpaperec.eu>

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## 8.3. SWIM and HORIZON2020

The SWIM-H2020 project – Depollution of the Mediterranean – aims to contribute to the reduction of marine pollution and to a more sustainable use of scarce water resources by providing tailored and targeted support to stakeholders of the Beneficiary Countries (BCs) within six results areas. As such, the project is seen as a resource for BCs to feed into their own work towards each of these end results, where relevant. ACR+, as non-key waste expert, received requests for Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Egypt Israel and Jordan regarding among others demolition and construction waste, marine litter, public authorities’ capacity building in circular economy.

Together with more than 40 stakeholders from 14 countries, ACR+ took part in the **2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the EU funded [SWIM and Horizon 2020](#)** - Support Mechanism project (SWIM-H2020 SM), which was held on 31 January 2018 in Jordan.

During the meeting, **an overview of the project's progress to date was provided**; in fact, the bulk of the nearly 100 activities of the project is in progress. A constructive dialogue and consultation on this was also held. The feedback from the Focal Points of the Project Partner Countries namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia was very useful. **They highlighted in particular the importance of the project at the national and regional level and the necessity for uninterrupted continuation of the project with further in-depth involvement and presence of the project's experts in the countries, more study visits and peer-to-peer interventions.**

ACR+ is part of the team of experts who carry out capacity building activities aimed at public authorities in the Mediterranean countries to **improve waste reduction and management performance.**

Among ongoing activities, it is worth to mention the ones planned in Morocco (on marine litter and coastal planning) and in Tunisia (supporting the local Government to lay down the types of plastic bags whose production, importation, marketing, possession and distribution will be limited or prohibited on the internal market).

**The EU funded SWIM-H2020 SM Project organised in Beirut a five-day regional capacity building activity (25-29 June 2018)** that included a Study Tour of Leachate Treatment Facilities in Lebanon and the launch of an experience exchange process among Mediterranean peers working on leachate management. Forty decision-makers and technical staff participated, from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. They were representing National Ministries or Public Agencies responsible for the design of leachate treatment plants and regional or local authorities in charge of the monitoring or operation of solid waste infrastructures and leachate management plants.

**This activity is implemented under the Horizon2020 component of the Project in an effort to address the acute problem of hazardous substances disposal such as leachate.**

**[SWIM-H2020](#)** have been busy lately, starting with a **cycle of Regional Trainings and Study tours**, which gathered various high-level experts on many aspects of **water management and environment protection.**

The last actions in which ACR+ has participated in recent months are the following:

- **A Consultation on the Vision and Action Plan for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management** of the Rabat-Salé-Kenitra region of Morocco, taking place on 17-18 September 2018, in Rabat;
- A workshop for thirty trainees from the National Solid Waste Management Regulatory Agency, Governorates and the EEAA Regional Branches organised on 10-11 October 2018 in Cairo. It covered aspects of planning, monitoring, and managing the Construction and Demolition Waste stream in a sustainable and integrated way;
- Regional on-site training in Athens, organised by MIO-ECSDE on 24 and 25 October 2018, to showcase the **collective response of the Mediterranean countries to curb the problem of marine litter;**
- A 2-day intensive training to strengthen capacities of competent stakeholders, taking place on 26-27 November 2018 in Amman. The training aimed to **support Jordan in implementing the road**

**map set in the country's National Green Growth Plan**, with a specific focus on circular economy and sustainable consumption and production.

- A 3-days workshop aimed at supporting the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection in the development of the strategies on Construction and Demolition Waste and Plastics. The event took place in Jerusalem, on 4-6 December 2018.

More trainings and activities are scheduled in the coming months.

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## ACR+ outside of the network

*Through its members ACR+ has access to a wide range of interesting best-practices in the field of material resource management. On top of facilitating exchanges on these practices between its members, ACR+ strives to promote the network at both national and European level and inform the wider public about its activities. ACR+ holds a strategic position as a technical network of local and regional authorities, providing background information to institutions and other stakeholders, giving visibility to the work of its members and spreading the vision developed by (and for) its members.*

### 9.1. Online presence

Throughout 2018, ACR+ was present online to showcase the network's activities and affirm its reputation. The main channels used were the following:

- **ACR+ website**, the public part of the website has been updated on a weekly basis
- **Social networks:**
  - Twitter: the account @ACRplus was launched in 2013 and is continuously attracting new followers. It has been fed by news on ACR+ activities but also by re-sharing information posted by members with Twitter accounts. In addition, ACR+ uses this channel to share interesting news with its followers on various topics linked with its activities.

**2,274**  **202**  
Followers on **Twitter** Tweets posted

- LinkedIn: in 2016 ACR+ started being active on LinkedIn once again. In 2017, the number of followers has been increased, reaching **759** (compared to 604 at the beginning of the year).



- **Updates:** In 2018, 3 editions of the Update – a quarterly newsletter sent to all ACR+ subscribers – have been sent, giving a thorough overview of ACR+ activities. The subscribers contact list containing an important number of emails not in use anymore, it has been re-started at the beginning of 2017, explaining the lower number of subscribers.



## 9.2. Sharing the network's views and expertise

- **Events and conferences**

ACR+ takes part in different events and conferences as a speaker, co-organiser or partner. During each of these events ACR+ informs participants about the network and its activities but also sheds light on its members when they have experience –linked to the topic of the event – to share. Where possible, ACR+ concludes partnerships with several major conferences, through which ACR+ members benefit from reduced and/or free entrance.



ACR+ participated as a speaker (or moderator) to the following events in 2018:

Date	Event	Place
17-18/01/2018	Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy Partnership meeting	Brussels
18/01/2018	Stakeholder Dialogue on Circular Economy (R2π: - tRansition from linear 2 circular)	Brussels
20/02/2018	Circular Economy: new challenges and perspectives to 2030	Prato
20-21/02/2018	European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform meeting	Brussels
27/02/2018	Fostering the Transition towards a Circular Economy in Europe: Turning Waste into a Resource	Brussels
21/03/2018	International Conference "Regions, Cities, and Organizations Promoting Circular Economy"	Porto
22/03/2018	Circular regions on the way: a vision on cohesion policy beyond 2020	Brussels
21-25/03/2018	EU Green Week – exhibition of ACR+ activities and projects	Brussels
24-25/04/2018	Smart Islands World Congress	Mallorca
15/05/2018	ERIN Conference on Circular Economy	Brussels
16/05/2018	The role of public authorities in developing circular economy strategies – EP meeting with Italian Municipalities	Brussels
29/05/2018	Waste selective collection: crucial factor in the circular economy	Porto
06/06/2018	Waste4Think workshop - session "Boosting innovation and circular economy through public procurement"	Cascais
19/09/2018	North Denmark European Association Day - Circular Economy	Brussels
17-18/09/2018	Consultation on the vision and action plan for the integrated coastal zone management	Rabat
25/09/2018	TAIEX-EIR PEER 2 PEER Study Visit on setting up effective repair and reuse systems for a circular economy	Brussels
8/10/2018	RECUWASTE conference	Mataró
11/10/2018	EC – DG grow Thematic Group "Sustainable use of natural resources"	Brussels
25/10/2018	PlastiCircle workshop on European smart container: the best way to boost plastic waste collection?	Brussels
25/10/2018	Interinstitutional Green Public Procurement Helpdesk meeting	Brussels
6-9/11/2018	Ecomondo fair – presentation of ACR+ projects	Rimini
16-18/11/2018	XXVI ANEPMA Technical Conference	Gijon
11/12/2018	Green Public Procurement as a tool for more sustainable cities (workshop)	Valencia
18-19/12/2018	Workshop on EPR and Plastics organised by UNIDO in the framework of the SWITCHMED project	Tunis

## 9.3. Partnerships

Although being primarily a network of local and regional authorities, ACR+ is open to partnerships with the private sector, NGOs, research institutes and public bodies at national or international level, even more in the context of circular economy. ACR+ is also engaged in **establishing partnerships and collaborations with similar networks in other fields linked with circular economy**.

These partnerships have been extended and/or renewed in 2018:

- ALDA
- Climate Chance
- Medcities
- Covenant Of Mayors
- ISWA

## Annex: ACR+ events 2018

Date	Event	Topic	Type of activity	Place
24 January	IMPACTPapeRec Final Conference	Boosting separate paper collection	Conference	Brussels (BR)
18 January	CEN webinar on bio-waste management	Decentralised bio-waste management, local composting	Webinar	Online
24-25 January	6 <sup>th</sup> URBAN-WASTE Mutual Learning event	Food waste	Workshop	Nice (FR)
15 February	IMPACTPaperec webinar	Separate collection of paper and board for recycling	Webinar	Online
23 February	URBANREC event	Bulky waste collection	Conference	Mechelen (BE)
27 February	URBAN-WASTE webinar	Gender sensitive communication	Webinar	Online
5 March	EPR Club lunch debate (DSD, EXPRA, SUEZ)	Eco-modulation of EPR fees	Lunch debate	Brussels (BE)
14 March	CEN webinar	Climate action and circular economy	Webinar	Online
20-21 March	7 <sup>th</sup> URBAN-WASTE mutual learning event	Tourism and waste	Event	Ponta Delgada (PT)
20-22 March	COLLECTORS kick-off meeting	Waste collection and sorting	Project meeting	Treviso (IT)
21 March	COLLECTORS First Regional Working Group	Waste collection and sorting	Working group	Treviso (IT)
22 March	COLLECTORS event	Waste collection and local constraints	Conference	Treviso (IT)
11 April	BLUEISLANDS event	Circular economy and sustainable tourism on islands	Conference	Brussels (BE)
18-19 April	FISSAC 6 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly	Industrial symbiosis	Event	Valencia (ES)
19 April	URBAN-WASTE webinar	Innovative waste management measures in tourism	Webinar	Online

Date	Event	Topic	Type of activity	Place
26 April	CEN webinar	Operational circular economy criteria for SMEs	Webinar	Online
22 May	EWWR Awards Ceremony	EWWR 2017 best actions	Awards ceremony	Brussels (BE)
22 May	European Green Week Event (ACR+, CITEO)	Smarter, greener cities: from waste to resource	Conference	Brussels
28 May	ACR+ General Assembly	ACR+	Meeting	Porto (PT)
29 May	LIPOR and ACR+ event	Waste selective collection and circular economy	Conference	Porto (PT)
31 May	FISSAC webinar	Social aspects of industrial symbiosis	Webinar	Online
13-14 June	RE <sup>4</sup> General Assembly	Construction and Demolition Waste	Project meeting	Brussels (BE)
13-14 June	INTHERWASTE 4 <sup>th</sup> thematic seminar	Waste minimisation in heritage areas	Conference, study-visit, project meeting	Cordoba (ES)
14 June	CEN webinar	Textile collection in Europe	Webinar	Online
26 June	CEN webinar	Circular bioeconomy at local and regional level	Webinar	Online
26-28 June	8 <sup>th</sup> URBAN-WASTE mutual learning event	Tourism and waste	Workshop	Kavala (GR)
5-6 September	WINPOL Kick-off meeting	Smart waste management	Project meeting	Gijon (ES)
7 September	EWWR webinar	Best practices from the EWWR 2017	Webinar	Online
17-18 September	SWIM-H2020 mission	Integrated management of the coastal zones	Workshop	Rabat (MA)
19-20 September	9 <sup>th</sup> URBAN_WASTE mutual learning event	Tourism and waste	Workshop	Syracuse (IT) St Paul's Bay (MT)
26 September	COLLECTORS event	Waste management on islands and remote areas	Conference	Trieste (IT)
2-3 October	DECISIVE 3 <sup>rd</sup> General Assembly	Biowaste	Conference	Trieste (IT)
4 October	EPR Club lunch debate (ACR+)	Role of EPR in new requirements of separate collection of textiles	Lunch debate	Brussels (BE)

Date	Event	Topic	Type of activity	Place
4-5 October	LIFE TACKLE kick-off meeting	Waste prevention in sports events	Project meeting	Pisa (IT)
10-11 October	SWIM-H2020 mission	Construction and demolition waste	Workshop	Cairo (EG)
11 October	European Week of Cities and Regions event	Circular City Portal, Urban Agenda for the EU	Workshop	Brussels (BE)
24 October	CEN webinar	Sustainable food cities in cities – TRIFOCAL project	Webinar	Online
24-25 October	BLUEISLANDS regional on-site training	Marine litter	Workshop	Athens (GR)
19 November	Zero Waste Europe, ACR+, Brussels Environment event during the EWWR	Organic waste Communicating good practices and innovative measures to appropriate target groups	Conference and workshops	Brussels (BE)
20 November	URBAN-WASTE webinar		Webinar	Online
21-22 November	FISSAC 7 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly	Industrial symbiosis	Event	Istanbul (TR)
22 November	EPR Club international conference	Marine litter and Extended Producer Responsibility	Conference	Brussels (BE)
26-29 November	URBAN-WASTE 3 <sup>rd</sup> General Assembly	Tourism and waste	Event	Lisbon (PT)
11 December	EPR Club planning meeting	Planning meeting for 2019	Planning meeting	Brussels (BE)

More information on ACR+ events: [www.acrplus.org/index.php/en/events/upcoming-events](http://www.acrplus.org/index.php/en/events/upcoming-events)