



Meet ACR+

Cities and regions
enacting a just, sufficient,
and circular transition

www.acrplus.org

A Guide to partnering with ACR+ for sustainable cities and regions

Dear Member of the Committee of the Regions,

The Association of Cities and Regions for Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+) extends its warmest congratulations on your election to the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). We are thrilled to welcome you and look forward to collaborating with you to build more sustainable and resilient regions across Europe.

This guide is designed to introduce you to ACR+, our mission, our work, and how we can be a valuable resource. We believe that your role in shaping regional policies is crucial for achieving more ambitious environmental goals in the EU, and ACR+ is here to support you in this journey. This guide introduces you to our organisation and our shared vision for a sustainable future – a future we believe is impossible without a **just, sufficient, and circular transition**.

Who we are

For thirty years, ACR+ has been a European network of cities and regions, committed to a holistic approach to **sustainable resource management**, focusing on **waste prevention**, the **efficient use of resources**, and the **circular economy**.

Today, Today, our network encompasses a rich tapestry of members – from individual cities and regions to national associations of local authorities. This diverse community, representing authorities of all sizes and structures, is united by a common goal: to build a **sustainable future** through **concrete action** at the **local level**.



Our vision

ACR+ [envisions vibrant cities and regions](#) where the economic and the ecological systems go hand in hand, through policies that ensure a fair distribution of wealth and resources, a fair access to public services, while guaranteeing positive effects on the environment and public health. This vision is supported by three principles:



No green ambitions will be achieved without circular economy



The transition we need is a just transition driven by the sufficiency principle



Cities and regions are at the heart of sustainability action

Our mission

ACR+'s mission is to **provide our members with concrete tools and approaches to enact the transition towards waste-free circular systems in their territories and beyond.** As decentralised authorities, they are uniquely positioned to:

- **Implement the European Green Deal:** Local authorities implement 70% of EU legislation.
- **Drive public spending and investment:** Managing a significant portion of public finances.
- **Engage citizens and businesses:** Being closest to the population and fostering essential public-private partnerships.

ACR+ acts as **the voice of decentralised authorities**, advocating for your role and interests in dialogue with European and international institutions. We are committed to **sharing our vision** and empowering you to lead this critical transition.

ACR+'s thematic areas

To work effectively, ACR+ focuses its work through five interconnected **Thematic Areas**. These areas represent crucial levers for change and provide platforms for in-depth knowledge sharing, project development, and policy advocacy within our network.

- **Built Environment:** This thematic area addresses the significant environmental footprint of the construction sector, focusing on the **circularity of resources in the built environment**. It promotes sustainable construction and demolition practices, advocating for the use of **sustainable materials, waste prevention in construction, and design for deconstruction and reuse**.



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ACR+'s Thematic Areas

- **Circular Lifestyles:** Recognising that sustainable consumption patterns are essential for a circular economy; this thematic area delves into **changing lifestyles to reduce environmental impact**. It explores strategies to **promote sustainable consumption choices amongst citizens, encourage sufficiency in consumption, and foster circular behaviours**.



- **Policy and Governance:** Acknowledging that effective policy frameworks and good governance are fundamental for driving systemic change, this thematic area focuses on **creating enabling conditions for the circular transition through policy and governance**. It examines **policy instruments, regulatory frameworks, and governance models** that can accelerate the adoption of circular economy principles at all levels.

ACR+'s Thematic Areas

- **Sustainable Food Systems**: Addressing the environmental impacts of food production and consumption, this thematic area promotes **circularity and sustainability within food systems**. It explores strategies to **reduce food waste across the entire value chain, promote sustainable food production and consumption patterns, and valorise unavoidable food waste streams**.



- **Waste and Materials Flow**: As the foundation of ACR+'s origins, this thematic area remains central, focusing on **optimising waste management and promoting circular material flows**. It covers the entire spectrum of waste management, from **waste prevention and separate collection to high-quality recycling and the sustainable management of residual waste**.

ACR+ Services

ACR+ is fundamentally **at the service of its members**, existing for and through the cities and regions that comprise our network. We do this by **facilitating knowledge exchange, boosting visibility, enhancing policy influence, and driving tangible environmental change**. Through these activities, we enable you, our members, to address your unique challenges within our five thematic areas and create lasting impact.

These services are delivered through a variety of tools, including our active engagement in **European projects**, the dissemination of **ACR+ publications**, the organisation of impactful **events**, and regular **newsletters**.

ACR+ Services

Here are the key services ACR+ provides to empower your regional action:

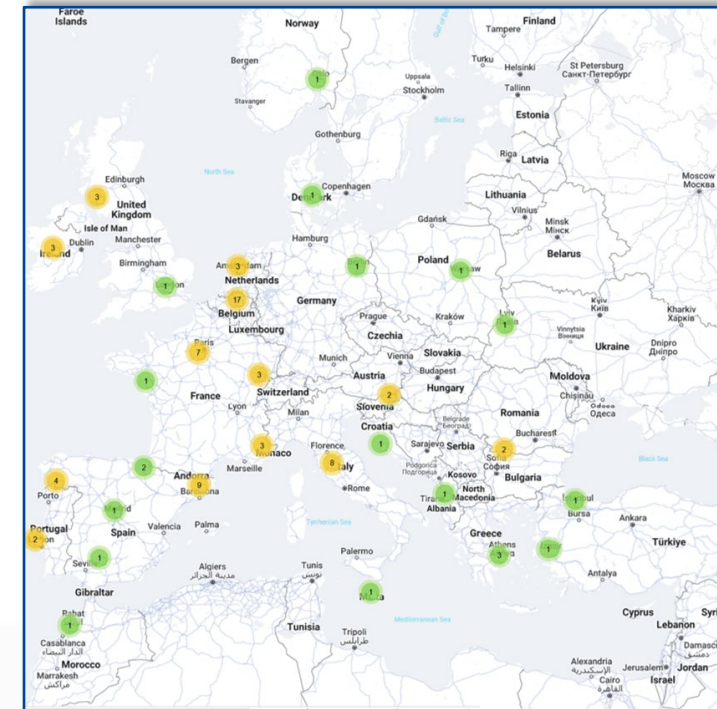
- ACR+ organises **communities of practice**, creating spaces for cities and regions to **collaborate with peers and experts** on crucial topics in sustainable resource management.
- ACR+ provides you with **access to an extensive repository of knowledge** on sustainable resource management. Through **workshops, webinars, publications, and reports**, we ensure local authorities stay informed about **the latest trends and innovations**.
- ACR+ offers **tailored capacity-building programs** specifically designed to equip cities and regions with the **skills and tools necessary to implement effective resource management policies**.
- ACR+ actively **advocates for sustainable resource management policies at European and international levels**, ensuring the voice of cities and regions is heard. We provide valuable insights and recommendations that support the development of circular economy legislation and broader environmental policies.
- ACR+ conducts **in-depth research and benchmarking studies** to provide cities and regions with **valuable insights into the latest innovations in resource management**.
- ACR+ helps cities and regions **amplify their sustainability efforts by offering platforms to showcase their achievements**. Through our events, publications, and digital platforms, we ensure that local initiatives gain visibility at both European and international levels.

Discover the ACR+ Community

ACR+ thrives thanks to the active participation of its members – a diverse network of cities and regions already deeply committed to the just and sustainable transition. As you embark on your mandate within the European Committee of the Regions, we encourage you to discover if your own region or city is already part of the ACR+ community.

Many members of the Committee of the Regions represent territories that are proactively engaged in driving the circular economy transition and championing sustainable resource management.

[Check if your region or city is already an ACR+ member](#)



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Let's Connect and build a sustainable future, together!

Even if your city or region is not yet an ACR+ member, we encourage you to get involved with our activities:

- **Explore our website:** www.acrplus.org
- **Subscribe to our newsletter:** [ACR+ Update](#)
- **Follow us on social media:** [LinkedIn](#)
- **Contact us directly:** info@acrplus.org

We believe that by joining forces, the European Committee of the Regions and ACR+ can be powerful drivers of a **just, sufficient, and circular transition** – a transition essential for a sustainable and liveable future for all. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with you. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out by contacting Gaelle Colas (gc@acrplus.org).