ACR+ in 2021

The network of cities and regions accelerating the circular economy transition in their territories and beyond
**2021 OVERVIEW**

**JANUARY**

We co-organise the EPR Club International Conference "EPR as an instrument to tackle microplastic pollution" [Part 1](#).

LIFE TACKLE publishes "The environmental management of professional football events: a survey of football managers".

**FEBRUARY**

We publish the Carbon Footprint of Waste of Pays de la Loire and of Genoa as part of the More Circularity Less Carbon campaign.

We share the municipal perspective on targets for glass packaging and effect of COVID-19 on municipal waste management during Episode 1 of Close the Glass Loop webseries.

We co-organise the EPR Club International Conference "EPR as an instrument to tackle microplastic pollution" [Part 2](#).

**MARCH**

We join a coalition calling the European Commission to deliver an ambitious EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment.

We co-organise with Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform a webinar "Fostering the circular transformation of business".

**APRIL**

The CEYOU guidelines provide insights on "Establishing permanent forums of dialogue between local authorities and youth organisations on circular economy".

Start of the DECISIVE series of webinars on decentralised management scheme for urban biowaste valorisation.

We publish the report "The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on municipal waste management systems".

We publish "The governance of circular bioeconomy - Practices and lessons learnt from European regions".

The LIFE TACKLE project starts its series of training to support four football associations at improving their environmental management skills and knowledge.

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**Priorities**

Increase citizens’ support for and participation in the economic transition and ensure their support for the actions of local and regional authorities by strengthening education and raising awareness, in particular in terms of prevention and sustainable consumption.

Highlight the impact of the circular economy on greenhouse gas emissions and the contribution that decentralized authorities can make to the fight against climate change through the development of local circular economy strategies including in particular development indicators to measure this impact.

Advance in waste reduction, sustainable consumption, and production with focus on biowaste and improve the performances of municipal waste management systems, in particular by targeting the organic fraction as it constitutes the most important part of household waste and since the selective collection of bio-waste as specified under the European waste directive is soon entering into force.

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**JANUARY**

**MARCH**

**APRIL**

**FEBRUARY**

**Priorities**
We organise the CEYOU-EWWR webinar "Putting youth at the core of circular economy".

TOURISME publishes 100 Good Practices in sustainable tourism.

The EWWR shares 5 tips to build a circular community.

We speak at a workshop on biowaste organised by Pays de la Loire.

The EWWR rewards its best actions 2020 at its Awards Ceremony.

We join the second Innovation Exchange webinar "Waste-to-value" hosted by the Circular Bioeconomy Cluster.

We speak on sustainable tourism solutions to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean during a Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism horizontal project workshop.

We co-organise with the EBCD Intergroup of the EU Parliament "The urgency to step up climate adaptation action".

We become a Green City Accord supporter.

We publish the Carbon Footprint of Waste of Brussels.

We contribute to DG ENV public consultation on new waste prevention measures.

TOURISME publishes 100 Good Practices in sustainable tourism.

The EWWR shares 5 tips to build a circular community.

We contribute to a workshop on biowaste for Brussels Environment.

Increase citizens’ support for and participation in the economic transition.

Advance in waste reduction, sustainable consumption, and production with focus on biowaste.
OCTOBER

We speak at the EEB annual conference "Charting the Path to a Healthy Planet" in the session on EU presidencies in the driving seat.

We celebrate the Erasmus+ Days with a video on our Erasmus+ adventure.

We carry out a study, "Opportunities for municipalities in glass packaging collection", for Close the Glass Loop.

We publish the cross-analysis of the results of the Cohort 1 of More Circularly, Less Carbon.

We join the European Week of Regions and Cities with two events "Bringing the urban bioeconomy to the people" and "Delivering the EU Green Deal through Circular Procurement".

We participate in LIPOR’s MIRC working group.

We present the first results of More Circularly, Less Carbon during the workshop "Debating the Pros and Cons: Is the waste sector ready to go beyond weight-based targets" at the ISWA Congress 2021.

NOVEMBER

We recommend quantifying food waste at each stage of the food value chain.

We co-organise a EU side event at the COP26 "Circular economy and local governments: sustainable resource management to mitigate climate change".

We speak at the conference on African cities by 2030 organised by Le Monde-Afrique and Veolia fondation.

The EWWR 2021 on "Circular communities" counts with 12,400 actions including a podcast prepared by ACR+.

We publish the Carbon Footprint of Waste of Ireland.

We contribute to Climate Chance’s Global Synthesis Report on Climate Action by Sector 2021 with a case study on the development of a bioeconomy strategy in Flanders.

DECEMBER

We co-organise the second #EUCircularTalk on cities and regions fostering the circular economy transition.

We join the EU Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform.

We speak at the final conference of the IP Smart Waste and at the conference "How is Europe supporting the development of waste prevention and the circular economy in Region Sud?" both organised by Région Sud.

HOOP signs a position paper to promote EU regulatory measures that support urban bioeconomy.

We speak on the contribution of the circular economy to climate mitigation during the International Seminar on Sustainable Development and Climate Change from the region of Coquimbo.

We publish the Carbon Footprint of Waste of Ireland.

We speak at the conference "Intervention measure for reduction of disposal of municipal waste generated in the city of Zagreb" organised by Zagreb.
2021 IN NUMBERS

- **44** Newslines
- **1,828** LinkedIn subscribers
- **4** New ACR+ members
- **3** EU Digests
- **49,059** Website users
- **12** project proposals
- **2,991** Twitter followers
- **13** staff members of ACR+ team
ORANGE PROEJECTS IN 2021

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Discover in details our projects on www.acrplus.org/en/activities/acr-projects
ACR+ is involved in different partnerships and cooperation initiatives to represent the voice of decentralized authorities, share the experience gathered within the network, and contribute to advance towards circular economy at global and European level.

In 2021, ACR+ represented 106 members gathered in 22 countries. Although a network dedicated primarily to local and regional authorities, ACR+ welcomes all stakeholders having a role to play in the transition to circular economy. From decentralised authorities and city networks to NGOs, academics, private partners and consultancies.

Different membership types – effective, partner, invited, or supportive member – are available depending on the local context and specific needs. New members can join throughout the year.

Services to members – including a weekly newsletter, a virtual library, support to events or projects, increased visibility, exchange of experiences, etc. – are part of the recurring and nonetheless essential daily activities of the network.
Underline the necessity to go beyond mere weight or volume-based waste collection metrics and promote use of integrative indicators such as a CO2 emissions calculation, a quantified target for prevention.

Priority 1

Reinforce citizens and economic actors’ support for the idea of waste prevention and sustainable consumption in general to help public authorities effectively implement solutions complying with the new EU directives.

Priority 2

Increase the exchange of experience in the network at a time where it is crucial for members to gain insight on what is being done in other places and have access to innovative and successful practices.

Priority 3
In 2022, you can already look forward to...

World Expo in Dubai

EPR Club lunch debates and international conference (e.g. on Data Collection on Costs of Littering and (Anti)littering Strategies as a Part of EPR Schemes)

Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference 2022

Climate Chance Europe Summit - 2022

EWWR Awards Ceremony 2021

ACR+ General Assembly 2022

Final conference of the WINPOL project on Waste Management Intelligent Systems and Policies

EWWR 2022 (18-27 November)
ACR+ PATH FOR 2022

Publication of the results of the second cohort of the More Circularity, Less Carbon campaign, involving Ireland (represented by the ACR+ members Eastern Midlands Waste Region and Southern Waste Region), the region of Navarra (ES), and the city of Odense (DK).

Launch of the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative with the possibility of being involved as Pilot or Fellow to benefit from increased support, collaboration and knowledge sharing regarding circular economy solutions at local and regional levels.

Report on quantified actions to prevent household food waste with practices and strategies for which food waste reduction was monitored and documented as well as recommendations on how local and regional authorities can promote household food waste reduction practices.

A focus on sustainable food systems to help local authorities get prepared to comply with upcoming legislation thanks to the start of five projects (Biocircularcities, Folou, Prepsoil, Life Biobest and FER-play) in complement to two already running ones (Foodrus and Hoop), all tackling different steps of the value chain.