

“Waste management in the medieval town of Rhodes”

/ Rhodes

Description of the good practice

The practice is about efficient waste management in the Medieval Town of Rhodes. It comprises of the control and monitoring of the generation, collection, transportation, separation and treatment of the waste from the Medieval Town, the allocation of human and equipment resources for these purposes, the continuous adaptation to seasonal changes, touristic and legal demands, a wide range of activities aimed to activate all the parties involved and the cooperation between them for a common goal: waste minimization and prevention.

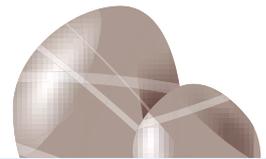
In recent years, waste management has proved to be one of Rhode's most complicated environmental, political, legal and social problems. The Municipality of Rhodes has always been responsible for the waste management in the Medieval Town, thus the implemented practices have been designed and developed internally after years of gained experience and are continually adapting to changes.

The development of waste management in the Medieval Town of Rhodes takes into account and adjusts according to the high seasonality and unpredictable waste generation during the summer season. Nevertheless, waste is collected from the small bins which are dispersed throughout the Medieval Town every day, during the early morning hours, all year long and during summer season additionally once or twice within the day. There is an arrangement in the summer that inhabitants and business owners dispose their waste only after dark in the big bins which are located in strategic parts, accessible to people and

trucks, so that the small trucks collect them before dawn. Small bins' waste is re-disposed in the big underground bins located just outside the fortification. The cobbled streets are cleaned manually and with special machinery -cleaners- every morning, and there is also a special suction pipe to cleanse the cigarette butts and other small waste from the cobbled streets, used throughout the day. Recycling bins are emptied on a daily basis by small special trucks.

The adopted practices are in full compliance with the 4042/2012 Law on Waste Management of Greece, the EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC, UNESCO directives pertaining to World Heritage sites in general and specific ones for the Medieval Town of Rhodes. Furthermore, there are restrictions imposed by the Archaeology Committee of the Medieval Town in Rhodes and guidelines by the Hellenic Recovery Recycling Corporation. The salary, the working conditions (i.e. personal safety devices), benefits and all other personnel-related issues are in full compliance with the respective Greek legislation. Procurement and budget-related issues are restricted by new laws after the economic crisis in Greece.

“The Municipality of Rhodes has always been responsible for the waste management in the Medieval Town”





Results

Proven results (through indicators):

1. Reduction in petrol and maintenance cost for the equipment due to vehicle renewal: 23%
2. Environmental benefits: they are Euro VI vehicles, which means lower noise and exhaust fumes levels by approximately 65%.
3. Aesthetic improvements: not easily quantified, though obvious to citizens, tourists (enhanced overall experience from a visit in the Medieval Town) and the local and international media.
4. Recycling of generated waste: approximately 13% in the first year of implementation and continually increasing.
5. Waste Reduction (tons): around 5% per year since 2016.
6. Green Areas: around 15% increase per year since 2016.

Possible success factors:

The engagement of the community (inhabitants and business owners in the Medieval Town of Rhodes), open top-down and bottom-up communication within the Municipality of Rhodes, commitment of the Mayor of Rhodes to improve the waste management, new state-of-the-art machinery and equipment, new procedures within the responsible Department of Waste Management and Recycling, careful design of the allocated human and financial resources, close cooperation with the local Trade Union, operation of the new Recycling Facility in Rhodes, use of third-parties (privatization)

of some activities to counteract the cumbersome legislation of the public sector, specially designed campaigns to inspire and activate all the parties involved and, last but not least, the general trend towards environmental consciousness.

Type of waste

Solid waste and Recyclable materials.

Location

The Medieval Town of Rhodes is the largest medieval city in the world (175.000 m² total area within fortification) and was declared in 1988 by UNESCO a World Heritage city.

It is inside 4-km-long walls with 11 gates and is inhabited, unlike other Heritage Cities.

Although the permanent inhabitants of the Medieval Town of Rhodes represent just the 2.5% of the total population of Rhodes island, it is estimated that 99% of visitors (over 2 million people per year) will at least once visit the Medieval Town of Rhodes for average 5 hours.

Volume treated

10000-12000 tn/year.

Further information

<http://www.antapodotiki.gr/Default.aspx?tabid=396&language=en-US>