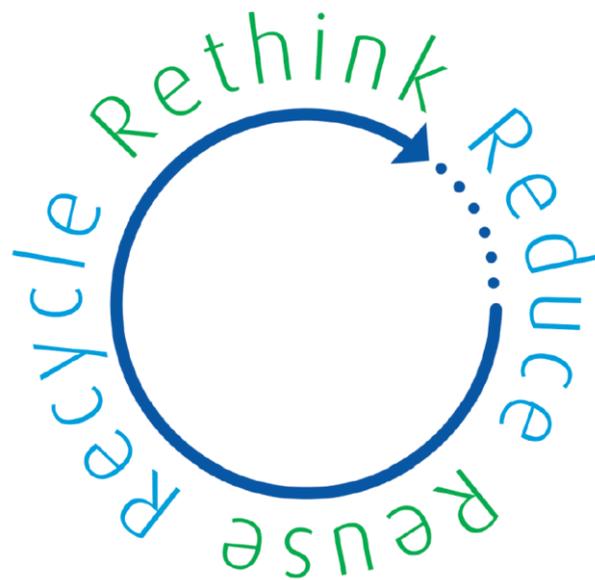




ACR+

ACTIVITY REPORT 2017



Brussels | January 2017

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2017 – A year in review

This document offers an overview of ACR+ activities during the year 2017. On the global political stage, climate change and circular economy were the most-spread words. The link between the two is not new for ACR+ and its members. In 2015, a report was published “[The Potential Contribution of the Waste Sector to a Low Carbon Economy](#)” by ACR+ and presented during an [international conference](#) at the European Committee of the Regions. If it is now generally accepted that an efficient material resource management has a positive impact on greenhouse gases, it is still important to push for and highlight the role of local and regional authorities as key actors within circular economy.

ACR+ made this its motto throughout 2017, in particular when joining high-level international events such as the Climate Chance Summit 2017 in Agadir. There, during a forum co-chaired with the two other members of the Climate Chance Thematic coalition on circular economy, practical cases on circular economy from various countries were presented. ACR+ shows the importance of involving local and regional authorities in the discussion on circular economy not only during conferences and political debates but also with its participation in several projects.

2017 has been a successful year for ACR+ in terms of visibility and image. Building on the work started in the previous years, ACR+ has gained more and more credit as an expert in circular economy and in sustainable resource management. It is now an essential partner and recurrent invitee at European level when circular economy is on the menu; for example being one of the 24 members of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform or part of the Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy. 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 level.

Welcoming new members

The exchange of experiences between ACR+ members is a strength 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 2017, 12 new members joined ACR+: Decoset, Open Plan Consulting, Clean Tech Region, Région Provence-Alpes Côte d’Azur, Saneamientos de Cordoba, Budgay Association for Supporting Ecological Living, Deloitte Sustainability, Ecores, Institut de l’Economie Circulaire, Institute Wcycle Maribor, Institut Éco-conseil, and OREE.

In addition and following a decision of the General Assembly, ACR+ is supporting South-East-Mediterranean public authorities by opening its doors to them as invited members for a limited period of 3 years. They can then benefit from all the services to the members pro-bono.

General Assembly 2017

ACR+ General Assembly 2017 took place on 19 May 2017 in Barcelona, successfully hosted by the Catalan Waste Agency. During this General Assembly, it was reminded that **the richness of ACR+ network** rests on the vast diversity of its members and their experiences. **Small discussion groups on seven different topics** also took place during ACR+ General Assembly, with the aim of favouring the emergence of concrete working proposals and activities for different topics, to be led by ACR+ and its members and included in the upcoming working programme (2018-2019).

The General Assembly was also the occasion for members to voice their opinion and satisfaction on ACR+ services. The answers given to the form submitted by ACR+ Secretariat showed the importance of these services and that members were highly satisfied with these services.

Changes in the membership fees

The General Assembly voted on several points, especially regarding changes in membership categories. It agreed on the following:

- Creation of a **new category of partner members**, the so-called “Invited members” targeting in particular **public authorities in the Mediterranean region**;
- Creation of a new type of effective members, the so-called “Supportive members” who can benefit of more services in exchange of a higher financial contribution;
- Change in the fees for the network of local authorities, following the number of inhabitants covered;
- Change in the fees for the consultancies, following the terminology defined by the European Commission.

Changes in ACR+ team

In 2017, a new employee joined ACR+ team. Francesco Lembo has experience in lifelong learning. ACR+ will thus benefit from his experience for the development of trainings. ACR+ team now counts with 12 permanent staff and 2 assistants. The full team is presented on [ACR+ website](#).

Focus on...

In 2017, the main concern was to enhance the transmission of expertise to and between ACR+ members. For this, the ACR+ Secretariat specifically worked on capitalizing on projects, sharing existing experiences – collected through projects and via members – and developing trainings and webinars.

Calls and future projects

During 2017 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. Some proposals were successful, others not. The following projects will start in 2018 (or started in late 2017):

- H2020 Collectors: project focusing on good practices for the collection and sorting of packaging and paper waste, WEEE, and construction and demolition waste;
- ESPON Circter: service aiming to provide evidence on the territorial dimension of the transition to circular economy and on local and regional patterns and flows of materials;
- Erasmus+ Cycle: project aiming to create a set of tools that support the introduction of circular economy competences in adult training.

Other calls have been prepared in 2017 and are still under study. In particular, ACR+ is working on a Horizon2020 proposal on urban planning as a facilitator of circular economy and on the integration in urban environment of circular business. Another proposal deals with waste prevention and how to manage food surplus.

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 2017 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**, a bi-monthly newsletter 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 2017, ACR+ published a [report on the roles of local and regional authorities towards the prosperity of local SMEs](#) (as an activity of the Circular Europe Network) and a [benchmark study on waste management in several European cities](#) (as an activity of the European Observatory on municipal waste performances).

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 2017, Brussels Environment commanded a **study on success factors for anaerobic digestion of municipal waste**. The purpose of the report is to compare bio-waste management in five large European cities; Barcelona, the London borough of Ealing, Milan, Munich, and Zurich. The choice of these cities was based on population and density compared to Brussels, door-to-door collection, and treatment by anaerobic digestion. The report formulates recommendations for the Brussels Capital Region and highlights good and bad practices of bio-waste collection door-to-door and treatment by anaerobic digestion.

AMBIENTEITALIA

ACR+ conducted a study with its member Ambiente Italia for the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on the **development of Best Environmental Management Practices in EMAS priority sectors**. ACR+' work focused on waste management practices for municipal waste, healthcare waste, and construction and demolition waste.

In **2017**,
there have been

41
Newslines
sent



to
+480
recipients



opened in average
by **21.82%**
of recipients



3 EU Digests
published



56
downloads
in total



46 pages
to read in total



2 reports
published



Roles of local and regional authorities towards the prosperity of local SMEs (October 2017)

This publication aims to complete the General guidelines for circular economy planning for local and regional authorities by providing concrete examples of good practices to set actions specifically for local SMEs.



Comparison of municipal waste management in EU cities (December 2017)

This report is part of the ACR+ Waste Observatory and is a follow up of a 2014 report presenting an EU-capitals benchmarking. It compares municipal waste management in cities and metropolitan areas. Data were collected in 17 cities across Europe, including ACR+ members Liège, Odense, Barcelona, Pamplona, Rennes, Maastricht and Porto.

• 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 2017 ACR+ provided support to Region Provence-Alpes Côte-d'Azur for the preparation of a **LIFE proposal** that was successfully approved by the European Commission and that will start its activities in 2018.



LIPOR received support to organise a **workshop on biowaste management** on 10/05/2017. The workshop, organised by the Portuguese Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (APESB), brought together around 35 representatives of Portuguese public authorities managing municipal waste.



In November ACR+ started to discuss with its member Brussels Environment a **project proposal on urban planning as a facilitator of circular economy and the integration of circular business in urban environments**.



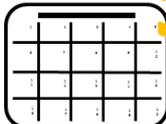
In addition, a discussion for an **international meeting on circular economy** (to take place in 2018) has been initiated between LIPOR and ACR+.

• 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 **2017**,
there have been

160+
News from 
members published
in the Newline

5 Events from
members on
 ACR+ calendar

In 2016, ACR+ added a monthly article “**Eyes on Members**” to its Newslines, to present more in details one of its members. In 2017, the following members have been presented:

- Dublin City Council and the Eastern Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021
- Sofia Municipality
- Cascais Ambiente
- Calitom
- Belfast City Council
- Municipality of Lisbon
- SYBERT
- Contarina

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.

- Presentation of Brussels’ Circular Economy Regional Programme during a workshop organised under the TAIEX programme in Casablanca on 03-04 October 2017
- Presentation of LIPOR’s activities during a 2-day workshop on waste management organised in November 2017 in Iran, as part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Iranian authorities and the European Commission
- A case of green public procurement implemented by the Brussels Environment administration was presented at the Circular Procurement Congress on 19 October 2017 in Tallinn
- ACR+ members OVAM and Brussels Environment have been invited to give a presentation during a study tour organised in September 2017 in the framework of the EuropeAid SWIM-H2020 SM EU-funded project
- ACR+ members Zagreb, Contarina, the Catalan Waste Agency, SUEZ, and LIPOR participated as speakers in the PPI4Waste project final conference in September 2017
- Examples from ACR+ members Genoa, Brussels, Zero Waste Scotland were presented at the conference “Waste legislation review - regions & cities for a circular economy” organised by the Committee of the Regions (in association with ACR+, CEMR, Eurocities and Municipal Waste Europe) on 31 January 2017 in Brussels.

1.2. 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 2017, in addition to the regular updates (ACR+ news, Members' news, and events) the website welcomed new pages for example to highlight new projects, or to present the Supportive Members package.

During that year it was foreseen to re-design the public part of the website to **improve the access to information and facilitate the browsing of the website**. It was also planned to improve the private part of the website – the so-called Member Space – to better meet the needs and expectations of members.

For this, a study has been conducted with ACR+ Board Members during the first semester of 2017 to evaluate the different needs. The changes suggested (mainly more interactivity and clearer information) have been taken into account and a discussion has been initiated with a sub-contractor who started working on it.

However, the changes chosen to be brought are more ambitious than the initial plan and thus the re-designed ACR+ website will be launched in 2018.

Amongst the changes discussed, the following suggestions were adopted:

- Refreshment of the general look and design of the website
- Adaptation of the website to a responsive design, making it suitable for portable devices
- Addition of a members database: including a profile of each member organisation, with the aim of helping them to know each other and facilitate the exchange of experience
- Upgrade of the virtual library: the existing virtual library will be re-ordered and up-to-date documents and reports collected by ACR+ will be regularly added there for members to consult. A system of tags and keywords will facilitate the search for documents
- Addition of a Forum (details on its functioning to be later-discussed) to allow ACR+ members to directly exchange and post messages

1.3. 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 2017 was to increase the transfer of existing knowledge. The Secretariat made a review of each project in

which ACR+ is involved to repertory which outputs; experience and knowledge can be shared with the network and be used as a basis for further work.

Thanks to the acquisition of a dedicated software, ACR+ started a **cycle of monthly webinars** offering the possibility to its members to increase their knowledge from the comfort of their office. For those who could not attend the webinars, recordings have been made available on ACR+ website, in the Members space. There, members can also find the presentations made during the webinars. The key word when planning these webinars was interactivity. Thus, enough time for questions and answers was allocated to each webinar. ACR+ also paid attention to promote the network and its members while delivering webinars and always looked at the possibilities of including members who had relevant experiences regarding the topic discussed.

ACR+ also proposes to its **members to host webinars** during which members have the opportunity present their activities, a project in which they are involved, etc. One member, BCNEcologia, seized this opportunity and discussed with the Secretariat the organisation of a webinar on composting (to take place in 2018).

The following webinars took place:

- Financing circular economy (27 January 2017) – via the Circular Europe Network;
- Industrial Symbiosis Tools and Best Practices (23 February 2017) – via the FISSAC project;
- Sustainable tourism, waste and circular economy (31 March 2017) – via the INTHERWASTE, URBAN-WASTE and BLUE ISLANDS projects;
- Role of local and regional authorities for circular SMEs (11 May 2017) – via the Circular Europe Network;
- Boosting innovation on waste management via procurement (29 September 2017) – via the PPI4Waste project;
- Lock or key? The role of governments in deploying Circular Economy (19 October 2017) – via the Circular Europe Network;
- Waste and tourism: how to set a participative approach? (30 November 2017) – via the URBAN-WASTE project.

In addition, in the framework of the Circular Europe Network, ACR+ organised an **in-situ training session from 3 to 5 July 2017 in Venice** (see below for further detail).

1.4. Follow-up of European legal activities

Since the beginning of the discussion linked to the (still to be announced) adoption of the waste package by the European Parliament and Council, ACR+ is closely **following the decision-making process** and duly informs its members in case of an important update. When requested, **it fuels the debate with technical data collected amongst its members** (but not only) and **share experiences from the network**. This means that ACR+ is continuously engaged with the European institutions, in particular the European Commission

and the European Parliament, and regularly assists to the events organised (conferences, stakeholder consultations, etc.).



In 2017, ACR+ took part in the stakeholders meetings discussing the plastic strategy as well as the meetings linked to the evaluation of the circular economy package.



In November, ACR+ was announced as one of the participants of the coordination group of the [European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#) (together with two of its members, OVAM and Institut de l'économie circulaire). As such, ACR+ attended a first meeting in Brussels on 22 November 2017.



ACR+ also joined the [Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy](#) (UAPCE) in 2017. The Circular Economy Partnership aims to stimulate the re-use, repair, refurbishment and recycling of existing materials and products to promote new growth and job opportunities within urban areas. The focus will be on: waste management (turning waste into resources), the sharing economy, and resource efficiency.



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.

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. Don't Waste our Future!



The **Don't Waste our Future** project aimed at building a **European alliance of youngsters against food waste and for new models of sustainable development and consumption** in the framework of the European Year for Development 2015.

The project involved approximately 80 primary and secondary schools and 40 municipalities across 7 European Countries. Youngsters have been involved not only as beneficiaries of the action, but above all as protagonists and awareness agents towards their families and peers. The main output of the project is the **DWOF Charter - A joint European Manifesto of Young People and Local Authorities to promote Food Waste Reduction and the global Right to Food**, as well as some guidance material to raise awareness on food waste reduction and the right to food.

ACR+ was in charge of the **coordination of the project in Belgium**, as well as the **dissemination of the project and its results in Europe**, in order to raise awareness on the issue of food waste. ACR+ also organised the **final project event on 20 April 2017** at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. Entitled **"Towards a global commitment for food waste reduction and the right to food"**, this conference was a great opportunity to present the results of the DWOF project. A special focus was given to public policies on food waste reduction, especially towards schools and educational programmes. The wider topic of sustainable food systems at local level was also addressed.

www.dontwaste.eu

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2.2. 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. This fresh start presented an opportunity to reflect on the last 4 years under the LIFE programme, thus a **short summary of all the activities, results and general information about waste prevention was published by ACR+**.

As for the previous EWWR editions, in 2017, ACR+ 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 competition where the most outstanding actions of each edition are rewarded.

The annual Thematic Focus for 2017 was “**Reuse and Repair**”, with the slogan “Give it a new life!”. ACR+ developed a series of tools for it: two new factsheets and a brand new poster which were made available for all action developers.

The 2017 edition of the EWWR took place between 18 and 26 November 2017, after months of preparations. With the great work of 40 EWWR Coordinators and numerous Action Developers, a record number of 13,410 actions were implemented in 30 different countries.

Earlier in the year, several activities also took place. The Let’s Clean Up Europe (LCUE) initiative was kept with an extension of its timeframe in order to give more visibility to the issue of littering and gather even more participants. LCUE has become a spring campaign, starting on 1 March until 30 June and in 2017 over 4,600 actions were implemented with more than 500,000 participants.

On 18 May 2017 in Barcelona, **the EWWR celebrated the most outstanding actions of the last edition during the EWWR Awards ceremony** which took place on the same day as the international EWWR conference entitled “Qualitative prevention, a new approach towards the circular economy”. During this event, many EWWR Coordinators presented best practices on waste prevention that were organised on their territories during past EWWR editions.

Last but not least, at the end of May, **the EWWR received an important recognition as one of the most outstanding LIFE projects from the past 25 years of the LIFE+ programme**.

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 upcoming new targets for recycling proposed in the new Waste Package.

ACR+ is working on **data collection regarding specific waste streams** such as bio-waste, packaging, plastic, etc., as well as regarding specific territory characteristics such as densely populated urban areas. More specifically, since the end of 2010, ACR+ has been developing an Observatory of municipal waste performances in Europe. ACR+ team will capitalise on the various projects it is involved in to **expand data collection and the identification of relevant good practices**.

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 2017, the project investigated the **various dimensions of decentralised bio-waste management**: an analysis of the factors required to develop a decentralised bio-waste management schemes for households and commercial activities based on an overview of innovative bio-waste management schemes. Various works were conducted to **adapt the solid state fermentation process to the treatment of the digestate**.

Both **demonstrations sites** (in Catalonia and Lyon) have been characterised and investigated according to the DECISIVE methodological elements to prepare the implementation of decentralised bio-waste management schemes.

In parallel to that, the scientific partners of the project, namely institutes and universities, such as Irstea, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Hamburg University of Technology and Aarhus University commenced with running their trial processes in order to define the future anaerobic digestions and solid state fermentation technologies to be implemented at the two demonstration sites.

Throughout spring 2017, ACR+ conducted **several interviews** among the stakeholders of the bio-waste management system to assess the situation in the Brussels Region and investigate how the DECISIVE concept could be adapted to the local context.

DECISIVE project partners met twice to discuss the progress achieved by the project: in Copenhagen on 25-26 April 2017 and in Hamburg on 17-18 October 2017. The second General Assembly was accompanied by a one day conference **Closing the loop: Challenges for the future food waste valorisation** on 17 October 2017 followed by a study visit to Lübeck-Flintenbreite, a nearby self-sustainable settlement.

Over the past months DECISIVE project team has participated in numerous scientific events in Ireland, Germany and elsewhere, as well in Brussels increasing and enriching the synergies with other stakeholders.

The articles and regular updates can also be found on the project's [website](http://www.decisive2020.eu).

www.decisive2020.eu

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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.

It has been two years since the FISSAC project began – it is now halfway through. These first two years have resulted in several technical reports, which have been evaluated and are now approved. To mark this event, ACR+, as leader of the dissemination of the project, made **all project deliverables** available on the website, either in full or merely as **summaries**, for those which contain confidential information.

Additionally, ACR+ organised the project's **first webinar** on 23 February 2017, which included **presentations focusing on industrial symbiosis tools, case studies, the FISSAC tool and the social aspects** needed to make industrial symbiosis a possibility. The webinar video is [available here](#).

Moreover, the third newsletter was published in June 2017. It gave an overview of project progress, with a highlight on the living labs organised in Sweden by RISE and HIFAB and on the webinar held in February. The fourth newsletter was sent out in December 2017, and focussed on wood plastic composites. Recent project progress was also presented, with particular attention on the living labs, as well as the FISSAC platform, which is being finalised. The living labs have already begun in Sweden (organised by Hifab), Belgium (organised by ACR+ member OVAM), and Italy (organised by RINA Consulting). ACR+ worked on the publication of a dedicated section on the FISSAC website. The aim was to have standalone pages for each national or regional living lab, in which the relevant news, events, and documents will be published.

ACR+ published a report identifying the main elements related to social engagement and acceptance in industrial symbiosis projects and defining recommendations for two main stakeholder groups – businesses and public authorities – to reach a high success rate in their industrial symbiosis projects. Furthermore, the ACR+ team had the opportunity to visit the industrial symbiosis project site “Manresa en Simbiosi” on 16 May 2017. The Manresa project was one of the three study cases chosen by FISSAC and has been described and studied in several deliverables, in particular on social aspects of industrial symbiosis. For this reason, it was extremely interesting to meet the people behind the project and to see in practice how the participating companies were benefiting from this initiative.

Lastly, the project consortium met in the UK and Sweden for the fourth and fifth General Assemblies (29-30 March 2017 and 3-5 October 2017), during which the 26 project partners discussed project progress, went over the key findings and planned ahead for future work.

<http://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.

An **overview of the bulky waste management status quo in the four territories** involved in the project was submitted in 2017. The overview report aims to provide a picture of the “starting situation” against which the impact of the project will be assessed at a later stage. ACR+ has contributed to drafting the report through the preparation of templates and data collection.

In May 2017, the third project meeting took place in Valencia, Spain. The meeting included a tour of company’s Ecofrag pilot plant including a demonstration of the Ecofrag fragmentation technology. The latest consortium meeting took place in November 2017 in Espinho, Portugal. It was hosted by the project partner Eurospuma and included a tour of Eurospuma facilities where the partners could understand more about the production process of PU foam. ACR+ joined both of these meetings.

In addition, within the consortium ACR+ is in charge (amongst other things) of the **URBANREC Legal Working Group**. The second meeting of the group was organised by ACR+ in May 2017, focusing on the topic of reuse of bulky waste. The meeting included an update on the reuse-related activities within the project, as well as a presentation of a study by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) exploring policy options to a circular furniture sector. Following this meeting, an online questionnaire on reuse legislation has been prepared and distributed to various stakeholders to gather their input. The survey was running until autumn. Based on the answers received (12 responses until November 2017), ACR+ has made an analysis and has prepared a draft report summarising the results.

Another task of ACR+ is to lead the **Dissemination work package**. Thus, ACR+ submitted two related deliverables, a Preliminary Dissemination Plan in February, and an updated Mid-Term dissemination Plan in November. The plan covers a number of dissemination activities to ensure wide visibility to project’s innovations and results to order market adoption. As part of the dissemination activities, ACR+ is further in charge of the project newsletter. Three issues of the [project newsletter](#) have been released so far. The first newsletter was released in January 2017, the second one in June and the third one in December. Each issue provides an overview of the activities of the previous six months and presents each time three of the project partners.

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3.5. RE⁴

The **RE⁴ 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. RE⁴ 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 RE⁴ 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.

The first edition of the **RE⁴ newsletter**, published on 6 September 2017, introduces the project in more details and provides an overview of its progress and further plans.

ACR+ produced an **analysis of a set of economic instruments** insisting in six EU countries and assessment of their performances within the framework of overall national strategies for sustainable resource management of CDW. Such economic instruments include waste taxes, waste collection charges, taxes on raw materials and products, deposit-refund schemes and subsidies and fiscal incentives. Main conclusions of the report aim at assisting policymakers in choosing an effective environmental policy package that will address the target CDW management challenge.

Furthermore, ACR+ developed the **project's promotional package**, which was released at the end of February 2017. This includes an **infographic**, **leaflet**, and **roll-up poster** describing the project and the partners. All the communication materials are downloadable from the **[project's website](#)**.

ACR+ attended the project's second and third General Assemblies (21-22 March 2017 in Belfast and 20-21 September 2017 in Berlin). During those meetings, project partners had the chance to discuss outcomes of the first year of project's activities, thus starting the definition process of a prefabricated energy-efficient building concept that can be easily assembled and disassembled for future reuse, containing up to 65% in weight of recycled materials from construction and demolition waste.

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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 2017:

- [ACR+ / EPR Club lunch debate on 19 January 2017](#) to present the recently published OECD guidance on EPR, providing an overview of the origins of EPR, the evolutions of the past decades since its creation and the implications these evolutions have for the future of EPR. The event included further presentations by the European Commission and from Professor Thomas Lindhqvist who first conceptualised the EPR as a principle two decades ago.
- [EXPRA / EPR Club lunch debate on 29 March 2017](#) to discuss the issue of how to calculate waste which is actually recycled. Different challenges surrounding the calculation process were identified (for instance, lack of exact data, difficulties in traceability of waste, quality of the waste, etc.) and discussed with the participating stakeholders.

- [DSD / EPR Club lunch debate on 17 October 2017](#) to present the findings of a study looking into two main operational EPR-models (competitive and single-scheme). The event provided insights into the conditions under which each of the two models is more beneficial.
- [ACR+ / CITEO / DSD / SUEZ / EPR Club international conference on 22 November 2017](#) on the topic of circularity of plastics. The event was organised jointly between the four organisations in cooperation with the European Parliament Intergroup on “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development” and was hosted by MEP Pavel Poc (Chair of the EP Intergroup) and MEP Fredrick Federley (Chair of the Circular Economy and Raw Materials Working Group). It took place in the European Parliament and was attended by around 70 participants.

On 14 December 2017, the **annual Planning meeting of the EPR for 2018** has taken place. It was a very productive meeting with a number of interesting issues discussed and concrete activities proposed to be organised in 2018. A major decision taken was to **focus more on improving the knowledge base and information exchange among EPR Club members**, notably by using the Virtual Library which can be accessed through the members-only area of the EPR Club website. The members expressed the wish to improve the resources featured in the Virtual Library available on the EPR Club website and to promote the use of the library as a platform for exchange of materials and information between the members. In addition to the regular tasks and activities of the EPR Club, ACR+ (acting as the EPR Club Secretariat) will pursue this focus in 2018.

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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 has 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. The part of the tool reserved to procurers was especially in the centre of the work, it will cover two main functionalities:

- Generation of **environmental criteria** to include in the offers
- **Comparison and ranking of different products** depending on their ecological characteristics

In parallel, partners collected, evaluated and simplified all the information needed for the GUF Tool database. The first project outputs are already available on LIFE FUTURE project website:

- [State-of-the-art study on green public procurement \(GPP\)](#) and its implications related to the urban furniture sector;
- [Report on the selected products and their specifications](#) (two different urban furniture products - benches, seats and chairs and playgrounds - were then selected to be used in two case studies intended to test and validate the functionality of the GUF Tool.);
- Informations on both green public procurement criteria and environmental profiles for urban furniture presented in the [LCA factors report](#).

On 27 September 2017, project partners met in Valencia where they had the opportunity to discover the first beta version of the GUF Tool, developed by Universitat Jaume I and start planning the testing period.

In 10 October 2017, ACR+ presented LIFE FUTURE results within the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities, during the workshop '*Circular Cities: helping cities and regions to implement the circular economy*'. The workshop gathered over 70 persons (EU, national, regional and local policy/decision makers; Authorities managing and evaluating cohesion policy programmes and projects; private companies and financial institutions) in an active debate about new trends of green public procurement.

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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.

On 01 March and 14 November 2017, ACR+ took part in two LIFE SMART Waste External Steering Groups (ESG), gathering **National Waste Agencies, International organizations and other public authorities to discuss strategies and tools to deploy lasting and effective waste crime prevention and intervention.** Through the ESG meeting the project consortium developed a strategy to engage a wider network of Agencies interested in applying Life Smart Waste results.

Amongst the different activities implemented by the LIFE SMART Waste project, three are worth highlighting:

- Development of a **pilot tool that assesses a range of financial indicators for regulated sites** - including sources of finance, levels of gearing, variances in costs and income, etc. - and how regulators could use this insight to identify potential or likely future offending;
- Publication of a report investigating the potential for innovation in using Remote Sensing (RS) techniques and data to help tackle waste crime;
- Publication of a report addressing waste and resource management industry perceptions of waste crime in Scotland.

On 27 and 28 September 2017 ACR+ member Nantes Métropole co-organised the 14th National Forum on Waste Management 2017. This forum, taking place every two years, gathered about 520 people and focused on the necessity to pursue the waste management sector collective ambitions. ACR+ was invited to speak during that day and joined the workshop on “putting an end to bad practices”, presenting the LIFE SMART Waste project.

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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.

One ACR+ member, Zagreb City Holding was also partner of this project.

The main exploitable results of the project include **a training package on public procurement of innovation (PPI)**, **roadmaps for progressive improvement** of waste management on specific topics (bio-waste, plastic waste, bulky waste, decision-making and separate collection) and for **coordinated procurement**, **a PPI contract and financial model** applicable to the waste sector and **a report on risk management** related to innovation.

A series of **national training workshops** took place to help building capacity in PPI and show how this can be applied within the municipal waste sector. ACR+ also held a webinar to transfer the project knowledge to its members on 29 September. The **final international conference** of the project took place on 12 September 2017 in Brussels. The conference entitled "**Feedback and opportunities for public procurement of innovation in the waste sector**" gathered public procurers and suppliers committed to boost innovation in the waste sector. The conference showcased the main outputs of the project and gave the opportunity of several discussions during which experts and other participants agreed that more cooperation was needed to support public procurement of innovation (PPI) and help increase the uptake of innovative solutions for waste management. Cooperation can indeed facilitate transfer knowledge on PPI, but also lead to concrete coordinated or joint tenders that will reduce costs and risks. The main outputs of the projects are available online on www.ppi4waste.eu.

www.ppi4waste.eu

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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.

• Trainings

In order to increase the skills of public authorities' staff and to facilitate the transfer of circular economy good practices, ACR+ has been working more actively on **developing and implementing training activities**. Through this training programme, ACR+ will capitalise on its experience and on its projects, and will focus on key topics of interest related to circular economy.

As part of its training work programme, ACR+ launched **a series of webinars**, in particular as a way to provide flexible and regular insight about specific circular economy issues. Three of these webinars were specifically organised in the framework of the Circular Europe Network:

- Financing circular economy: from European instruments to local implementation (January),
- Roles of local and regional authorities for circular SMEs (May),
- The role of governments in deploying Circular Economy (October).

Within the framework of the Circular Europe Network (CEN), ACR+ organised a **3-day Summer Training Course on Circular Economy** that was held between 3 and 5 July 2017 in Venice, Italy, in cooperation with the Venice International University. The training course focused in particular on: circular economy strategies at EU, regional and local levels (showcasing in particular the strategies implemented in Brussels and Scotland); the plastics loop and the impact of Extended Producers Responsibility; and instruments contributing to efficient local approaches, in particular public procurement. It included a mix of practical

presentations delivered by high-level experts, roundtables presenting and discussing concrete examples, workshops with exercises as well as a site visit to ACR+ member Contarina. Different modules addressed the various steps that cities and regions should follow if they want to set up and implement a circular economy strategy on their territory and more specifically:

- Knowing the territory and defining priorities;
- Engaging stakeholders and supporting pilots;
- Developing projects on selected topics.

The training course was attended by about 20 participants, half of them coming from ACR+ members. Their feedback regarding the training course was very positive and ACR+ will investigate possibilities to reiterate this capacity building activity.

• Publications

In order to keep getting closer to local authorities and decision makers, ACR+ will continue to increase the number of languages in which its CEN [General guidelines on circular economy strategies by local and regional authorities](#) will be available. This publication aims at **explaining the potential role of local and regional authorities**, and at helping them to draw up integrated and efficient circular economy plans. The guidelines were originally issued in 2015 and translated in Spanish, Catalan, Italian, and Portuguese with the help of ACR+ members. In 2017, the guidelines were translated into Polish.

ACR+ published a new report of the Circular Europe Network (CEN) in October 2017, the [Roles of local and regional authorities towards the prosperity of local SMEs](#). This document aims to complete the General guidelines for circular economy planning for local and regional authorities with **concrete examples of good practices to set actions specifically for local SMEs**. Members of ACR+ took part in the co-construction of this document by providing actions related to circular economy that they have implemented in their city or region. Indeed, governments must create across-the-board connections between stakeholders at all levels, whether they are private companies, public authorities, scientists, academia or consumers. This publication was presented in details to ACR+ members during a webinar on 19 October 2017, entitled “Lock or key? The role of governments in deploying Circular Economy”.

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 **170 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. Some of the latest factsheets published in 2017 include: Greenbizz incubator in Brussels; Reused drugs in Genoa; Bottom-up urban planning in Almere Oosterwold; Community gardens in Utrecht; Circular Economy strategy in Basque Country as well as the Industrial Symbiosis in Sabadell and Barberà del Vallès.

In order to provide more concrete information on circular economy practices, ACR+ started to work on more detailed factsheets about a selected number of cases. Through the presentation of concrete examples in various cities and regions, these in-depth factsheets will highlight the main partners to involve,

the key challenges to be addressed, as well as the key steps and success factors needed to develop and/or adapt the cases on a territory. The first in-depth factsheet to be published will focus on incubators for green business.

- **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 recent publication on the role of local and regional authorities towards the prosperity of SMEs. 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 2017, ACR+ was selected to join the **Coordination Group of the [European Circular Economy Stakeholders Platform \(ECESP\)](#)** along with 23 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). Co-chaired by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee, the ECESP was launched in summer 2017 and aims at becoming a "network of networks" on circular economy, structured around 3 pillars:

- Policy dialogue gathering stakeholders' input and views during meetings and international events;
- Coordination, in particular via the Coordination Group in which ACR+ participates;
- Knowledge, national strategies and good practices, in particular via the ECESP website.

The first meeting of the ECESP Coordination Group took place on 22 November 2017. 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+ also joined the **[Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy \(UAPCE\)](#)** in 2017. The Circular Economy Partnership consists of six urban 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). The city of Oslo is the Coordinator of this Partnership. Under the perspective of cities and urban environment, the UAPCE aims to identify, analyse, review and recommend the need for better regulation, better funding and better knowledge sharing to help cities expedite the transition to a circular economy. ACR+ already participated in three meetings of the UAPCE, in April 2017, September 2017 and November 2017, and contributed to the development of thematic scoping fiches (in particular on governance and finances, circular consumption, urban resources, bio-resources, ecodesign, circular procurement, industrial symbiosis, collaborative economy) with the view to prepare the UAPCE action plan for supporting cities' transition to circular 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+ is 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.

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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).

A compendium of waste management practices in the pilot cities and of best practices in touristic cities was published in February 2017. Later in 2017, after an initial phase of collecting waste generation and how tourism affects it, the “Status quo (baseline) assessment report on waste management performances in 11 pilots cities and regions” was published.

A major milestone was achieved in November 2017 when the long-awaited mobile app was published. **WasteApp** is now available on both GooglePlay and AppStore and is primarily intended for tourists visiting the 11 pilot cities and regions.

Three Mutual Learning events were organised during 2017 and they were all covered by ACR+ and some of them included our members who aren't partners on the project. The cities which hosted URBAN-WASTE Mutual Learning events in 2017 were Santander, Copenhagen and Nicosia hosting seminars on IT solutions in waste management, waste management planning and implementation and monitoring of waste management solutions, respectively.

The **URBAN-WASTE** project has entered its second year in June 2017 which was marked by the second General Assembly, held in Copenhagen on 29 June and 1 July 2017. The second year already starts seeing major advancing, especially in terms of implementing concrete measures and strategies. **The online brainstorming platform, which is still open for ideas, was set up for collecting proposals and potential good practices** which will be put on disposal for the pilot cities and regions and other interested parties. These developments were announced back in June in the 2nd newsletter.

The last **Municipality Forum took place in Nicosia on 18 and 19 October 2017 where** pilot cities and regions explored how to successfully implement the chosen practices and strategies with the help of guest speakers from cities, regions and projects which has already been through such processes.

In terms of external representation and dissemination, the project was presented in **the webinar “How can urban metabolism lead to a circular economy and a more sustainable future for cities?”**, organised by a like-minded project UrbanWINS. **Another webinar, targeting policy makers and local and regional authorities was organised by ACR+ within the project's framework itself on 30 November 2017.**

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.

The project held its kick-off meeting on 17-18 January 2017 in Cyprus. Since then ACR+ attended two other meetings linked to the project: a second Technical Committee on 23 June 2017 in Athens and the launching event of the **MED Community on Sustainable Tourism** on 16-17 March 2017 which gathered all Interreg MED projects working on this topic.

At the end of the project's first year, some intermediate results from its study phase are already available. **A monitoring of plastic pollution and two sampling campaigns were conducted.** Surveys on micro and macro-plastic were undertaken and preliminary results show that on average **plastic debris largely dominate the composition of marine litter, and a higher proportion of plastic items is present on the most touristic beaches.**

ACR+ is in charge of coordinating the project's communication activities. Thus, it developed the visual identity and project communication tools, such as project leaflet, poster and banner. At the occasion of the World Tourism Day, on 27 September 2017, ACR+ launched the **BLUEISLANDS website**:

<https://blueislands.interreg-med.eu>. It will help to spread and improve knowledge about the waste streams responsible for marine litter, in particular plastics and explore in details the correlation between marine litter and tourism. ACR+ also prepared and published the **two first newsletters of the project**.

At the end of the year, ACR+ started the organisation of an international conference on sustainable resource management in Mediterranean Islands, which will take place during the 1st semester 2018.

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

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6.2. INTHERWASTE



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.

In 2017, the **first three Thematic Seminars** of the INTHERWASTE project were organised in Porto (March), Krakow (June) and Ibiza (November). During each event, a specific topic was addressed and partners as well as invited guests presented their best practices. ACR+ contributed by providing technical support in the collection of the practices and then moderating the different sessions. The three themes covered were:

- Waste Deposit in Heritage Areas
- Selective collection in Heritage Cities
- Integration of waste management solutions into the urban décor of Heritage areas

These three events led to fruitful discussions amongst the participants regarding the introduction of methods and practices presented within their territories. All presentations are available on the [events' pages](#).

Regarding communication activities, ACR+ produced the **INTHERWASTE video** which presents the main characteristics of waste management in a Heritage Cities, as well as the objectives and partners of the project. More details on the latest INTHERWASTE activities can also be found in its newsletters, published by ACR+ in March and [September](#).

It has to be noted that in May 2017, a new partner joined the project, the Municipality of Ibiza, acting as a replacement for the Municipality of Syracuse.

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6.3. 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.

The year 2017 started with the organisation of a **public project conference** in Barcelona in January 2017. The event gathered more than 50 professionals from across Europe to discuss ways to increase separate paper collection in the EU. The conference also featured a presentation of the current waste management systems in Europe based on internal deliverables of the project, to which ACR+ has contributed to a large extent. The partners further held a series of internal workshops and the bi-annual General Assembly.

The last General Assembly took place in September 2017 in la Roche-sur-Yon in France. The meeting was combined with a visit to the **Vendée Tri sorting plant**, internal working sessions and the first of a series of workshops for municipalities. The focus was the application of the identified good and best practices to the specific context of the municipalities on the Trivalis territory. In October and November similar workshops were organised in the rest of the project focus territories in Poland, Bulgaria and Romania. In October, a project Informative meeting has been organised to present the project to the interested stakeholders, including representatives of the European Commission.

Under the lead of ACR+, **identification and extensive analysis of good and best practices for collection of paper for recycling** was performed. This has led to the preparation of a first draft of the **Handbook on Good and Best Practices** in the late summer, still under the supervision of ACR+. The Handbook and its contents have been further continuously updated and progressively uploaded on the project website.

In parallel, the situation in each of the seven project focus territories has been analysed and potential specific solutions have been evaluated, thus applying and validating the contents of the Handbook. Recommendations for incentives, policy measures and standards have been developed. The innovation working atmosphere was maintained and several innovation supporting activities have taken place, including several rounds of interactive workshops.

Regarding communication activities, ACR+ is in charge of several specific tasks. The second and third issues of the project newsletter have been released in February and November 2017. ACR+ has developed specific leaflets and posters aiming to boost the engagement of citizens to the project in eight different languages (BG, DE, EN, ES, HU, FR, PL, RO). A YouTube video highlighting the interactive and collaborative spirit of the project is being developed. Two eLearning modules – on separate collection and on recycling – are also under development. ACR+ has also been preparing the organisation of the project final conference to be held in Brussels in January 2018.

<http://impactpaperec.eu>

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6.4. 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.

In July 2017, ACR+ organised **two expert missions to Israel**. The first mission was held on **plastic waste management**, with the contribution of ACR+ Secretary General Françoise Bonnet and Helmut Schmitz from DSD (Duales System Deutschland – Der Grüne Punkt) as experts. For the second mission on **glass recycling**, Christian Deltenre from SUEZ/Minerale and Raf Vanswartenbrouck from GRS Glas Recycling/Rhenus Recycling were involved as experts. Following the invitation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP), **the experts met with the key local stakeholder** and held meetings and discussions at the MoEP.

Both missions had the objective to understand the **current situation of plastic/glass waste management and recycling in Israel**, and to **assess the environmental, technical and economic aspects and problems of plastic/glass waste management and recycling**. Back in Europe, the experts have been working under the lead of ACR+ on the development of **recommendation papers** on both topics for the MoEP. The cooperation on the glass recycling topic will come to an end after the publishing of the recommendation paper. Nonetheless, the work on plastic waste management will continue with a second mission in planned early 2018.

On 25-27 September 2017, within the framework of the Regional Activities on Solid Waste Management, a study tour was organised by ACR+ in Brussels and around. The aim of which was to gather stakeholders from the SWIM/H2020 Project's Partner Countries as well as experts and practitioners and provide a high-level field visit, focusing on C&D waste. The tour programme entailed site visits, trainings/workshops, exercises and discussions. 38 participants coming from 12 countries actively participated to this 3-day workshop.

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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.

7.1. Online presence

Throughout 2017, 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.

2,006  202
Followers on **Tweets posted**
Twitter

- LinkedIn: in 2016 ACR+ started being active on LinkedIn once again. In 2017, the number of followers has been increased, reaching **604** (compared to 536 at the beginning of the year). **More than 2 posts a month** have been published.

68  47 **Updates posted**
Followers **gained in 2017**

- **Updates:** In 2017, 2 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.

Update
Spring
2017

sent to  **1,617** subscribers

opened in average
by  **18.9%**
of recipients

Update
Autumn
2017

sent to  **1,641** subscribers

opened in average
by  **17.2%**
of recipients

7.2. 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.

In **2017**,
ACR+

 spoke in
33
conferences

participated
in
 **25+**
events

 **5** Events with
discounts for
ACR+ members

ACR+ participated as a speaker (or moderator) to the following events in 2017:

Date	Event	Place
30/01/2017	BNP Paribas Fortis in Transition: Co-creation Workshops with Entrepreneurs & Experts	Brussels
31/01/2017	Waste legislation review - regions & cities for a circular economy (Committee of the Regions)	Brussels
01/02/2017	NewInnoNet workshop	Brussels
08/02/2017	INGEDE Symposium 2017	Munich
08-09/02/2017	2nd European Food & Beverage Plastic Packaging Summit	Berlin
16/02/2017	North London Waste Prevention Exchange	London
09/03/2017	APESB meeting on how to implement circular economy projects	Lisbon
15/03/2017	BIOHEC-LIFE kick-off meeting	Brussels
28/03/2017	EuRIC Competitive Recycling markets in Europe	Brussels
28/03/2017	DG Joint Research Centre expert meeting	Seville
10/05/2017	Bio-waste seminar	Lisbon
30/05/2017	Paper and Biorefinery Conference 2017	Graz
02/06/2017	Public Hearing on Entrepreneurship on Islands	Brussels
21/06/2017	5th International Conference on Sustainable Solid Waste Management	Athens
26/06/2017	MetroLab - Cities in the metabolic loop and design	Brussels
26/06/2017	« Mieux impliquer les collectivités territoriales dans Horizon 2020 : agriculture, bioéconomie, environnement, villes durables »	Paris
27/06/2017	Les troisièmes Assises de l'économie circulaire	Paris
27/06/2017	Pathway to Global Policy, Industry and Societal Impact on Resource Efficiency and Sustainability	Brussels
06/07/2017	Digestione anaerobica e biometano per autotrazione	San Giuseppe Vesuviano
13/07/2017	LADDER International workshop - The Challenges for Local Development in Tourism	Cagliari
11-13/09/2017	Climate Chance Summit	Agadir
12/09/2017	#beCircular Annual Meeting 2017	Brussels
19/09/2017	The Process Industry Conference	Brussels
27/09/2017	National Forum on Waste (Assises Nationales des Déchets)	Nantes
28/09/2017	Meeting of the expert group on the implementation of the Directive on packaging and packaging waste (94/62/EC)	Brussels
03-04/10/2017	TAIEX Regional Workshop on Circular Economy	Casablanca
10/10/2017	EWRC - Circular Cities: helping cities and regions to implement the circular economy	Brussels
18/10/2017	FORCE: Workshop about circular economy in waste	Essen
19/10/2017	Local and regional authorities wanted... A role to play for a sustainable demand	Brussels
19/10/2017	Circular Procurement Congress	Tallinn
07/11/2017	Sustainability of coastal and maritime tourism and blue growth in the Mediterranean	Rimini
08/11/2017	5th High Level Conference of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials	Brussels
09/11/2017	Ecomondo - PAYT: State of the art and future outlooks	Rimini
21/11/2017	Municipal and Regional Waste Management & Prevention	Brussels
24/11/2017	Biosurf and Bin2Grid Final Conference	Brussels
25-26/11/2017	Expert mission - CE&Waste management workshop	Iran
27-28/11/2017	Waste Management in the Circular Economy 2017	Berlin

7.3. 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 2017:

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

Annex: ACR+ events 2017

Date	Event	Topic	Type of activity	Place
12-13 January	TurkeyComposts! Final Conference	Composting, MED cooperation, organic waste management	Conference	Istanbul (TR)
17-18 January	BLUEISLANDS Kick-off Meeting	Sustainable tourism, waste reduction & management, marine litter	Project meeting	Nicosia (CY)
24-26 January	IMPACTPaperREC GA, conference, meeting, workshop	Paper separate collection & recycling	Conference, workshop, GA	Barcelona (ES)
19 January	EPR Club lunch debate (ACR+)	OECD updated guidelines on EPR	Lunch debate	Brussels (BE)
27 January	CEN webinar on financing circular economy	circular economy, financial instruments	Webinar	Brussels (BE)
21-22 March	RE4 2nd General Assembly		Project meeting	Belfast (UK)
29-30 March	FISSAC 4th General Assembly		Project meeting	Sheffield (UK)
23 February	FISSAC Webinar 1	Industrial symbiosis tools and best practices	Webinar	Online
29February	EPR Club lunch debate (EXPRA)	How to measure recycling	Lunch debate	Brussels (BE)
01 March	LIFE SMART WASTE Esternal Steering Group	Waste regulation and waste law enforcement	Project meeting, workshop	Glasgow (UK)
8-9 March	INTHERWASTE 1st thematic seminar	Waste deposit in heritage areas	Conference, workshop, project meeting	Porto (PT)
14 - 17 March	Urban-Waste Mutual Learning meeting	ICT tool for awareness raising	Conference, workshop, project meeting	Santander (ES)
16-17 March	InterReg Sustainable Tourism Community Kick Off Meeting	Sustainable tourism, waste reduction, marine litter	Conference, workshop	Marseille (FR)
22-23 March	LIFE FUTURE Project board meeting	Green Public Procurement, sustainable urban furniture	Project meeting	Brussels (BE)
20 April	DWOF final event	Food waste	Conference	Brussels (BE)

Date	Event	Topic	Type of activity	Place
25-26 April	DECISIVE General Assembly		Project meeting	Aarhus (DK)
11 May	CEN webinar on supporting and engaging SMEs	circular economy, SME	Webinar	Brussels (BE)
16 May	URBANREC 2nd legal working group	Reuse	Working group	Brussels (BE)
17 May	EWWR Coordinators & partners meeting	EWWR	Project meeting	Barcelona (ES)
18 May	EWWR Conference	Qualitative waste prevention	Conference	Barcelona (ES)
18 May	EWWR Awards ceremony	EWWR 2016 best actions	Awards ceremony	Barcelona (ES)
19 May	ACR+ General Assembly	ACR+	Meeting	Barcelona (ES)
29-31 May	URBANREC consortium meeting	Bulky waste	Project meeting	Valencia (ES)
29 May- 1 June	Urban-Waste Mutual Learning meeting + general assembly + steering committee	Waste Management Planning	Conference, workshop, project meeting	Copenhagen (DK)
7-8 June	INTHERWASTE 2st thematic seminar	Selective collection in heritage areas	Conference, workshop, project meeting	Krakow (PL)
23 June	BLUEISLANDS Steering Committee	Sustainable tourism, waste reduction & management, marine litter	Project meeting	Athens (GR)
3-5 July	Summer Training Course on Circular Economy	circular economy	Training	Venice (IT)
10-14 July	SWIM Mission on plastic waste management	Plastics	Meetings & field visits	Jerusalem, Tel Aviv & other places in IL
16-19 July	SWIM Mission on glass recycling	Glass	Meetings & field visits	Jerusalem (IL)
12 September	PPI4Waste Final Conference	Public Procurement of Innovation	Conference, project meeting	Brussels (BE)
12-15 September	IMPACTPapeRec GA, board meeting, workshops	Paper separate collection & recycling	Meetings, workshops, field visit & GA	La Roche-sur-Yon (FR)
20-21 September	RE4 3rd General Assembly	CDW, reuse in the construction sector, prefab	Project meeting	Berlin (DE)
25-27 September	SWIM study tour	CDW	Study visit (workshops, field visits, presentations)	Brussels & Leuven (BE)

Date	Event	Topic	Type of activity	Place
26 September	LIFE FUTURE Project board meeting	Green Public Procurement, sustainable urban furniture	Project meeting	Valencia (ES)
29 September	PPI4Waste webinar on public procurement of innovation in the waste sector	Public Procurement of Innovation	Webinar	Brussels (BE)
4-5 October	FISSAC 5th General Assembly	industrial symbiosis, CDW, & social aspects	Project meeting	Stockholm (SV)
17 October	DECISIVE conference: Closing the loop: Challenges for the future food waste valorisation	Biowaste	Conference	Hamburg (DE)
17 October	EPR Club lunch debate (DSD)	EPR and competition	Lunch debate	Brussels (BE)
18 October	Urban-Waste Mutual Learning meeting	Implementing and monitoring waste management and prevention measures	Conference, workshop, project meeting	Nicosia (CY)
18-19 October	DECISIVE General Assembly	Project management	Meeting	Hamburg (DE)
24-25 October	IMPACTPapeRec workshops in Bulgaria	Paper separate collection & recycling	Workshops	Mezdra and Dupnitsa (BG)
14-15 November	URBANREC consortium meeting	Bulky waste	Project meeting	Espinho (PT)
14 November	LIFE SMART WASTE External Steering Group	Waste regulation and waste law enforcement	Project meeting, workshop	Glasgow (UK)
15-16 November	INTHERWASTE 3rd Thematic Seminar	Urban Integration in Heritage areas	Seminar, meeting	Ibiza (ES)
23-24 November	CYCLE Kick-off Meeting	Circular economy skills in adult education	Project meeting	Albacete (ES)
22 November	EPR Club international conference	Circular plastics and EPR - how to bridge the gaps	Conference	Brussels (BE)
14 December	EPR Club Planning meeting for 2018	Planning meeting for 2018	Planning meeting	Brussels (BE)

More information on ACR+ events: www.acrplus.org/index.php/en/events/upcoming-events