



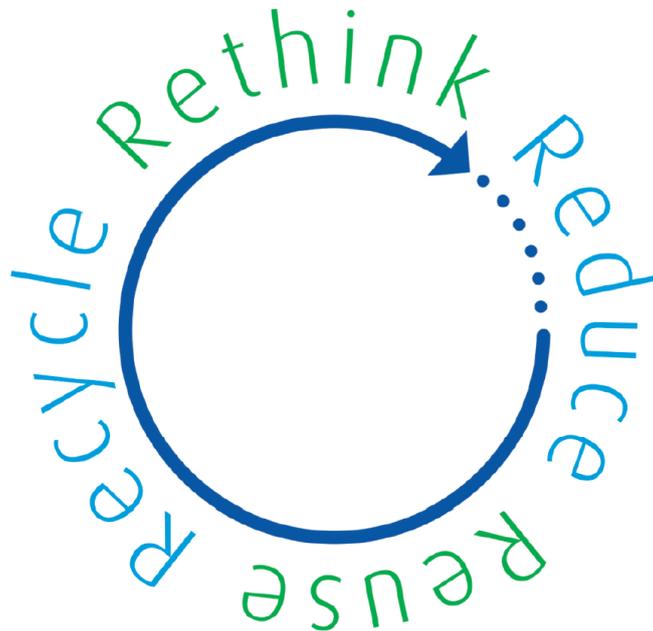
ACR+

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

ASSOCIATION  
OF CITIES  
AND REGIONS  
FOR RECYCLING  
AND SUSTAINABLE  
RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

# ACR+

## WORK PROGRAMME 2018



Brussels | January 2018

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# Introduction

Since its creation in 1994, ACR+ has constantly evolved in terms of working areas and types of activities with the aim of highlighting the growing importance of the material resources problematic in terms of resource efficiency and circular economy. As an international network of public authorities (open to other key players), ACR+ advocates for the recognition of the strategic role of local and regional authorities. It gives them a voice and a platform where to promote their experiences and knowledge. ACR+ keeps on demonstrating that public authorities have the power to facilitate, coordinate and support sustainable practices locally and regionally, being in direct contact with all the actors involved in the transition to sustainable, resource-efficient and low-carbon societies.

Being part of this transformation requires for local and regional authorities to possess the right tools and knowledge. Thus, ACR+ is offering to its members a technical support to build up their sustainable resource management strategies and accelerate the transition towards a circular economy on their territories. Members can rely on an extensive pool of best practices, the knowledge acquired by front-runners within the network and the expertise of the ACR+ Secretariat team. To strengthen the knowledge and capacities of the network, ACR+ is also involved in several projects and activities at European level and in the Mediterranean region – always maintaining a working balance between legal, technical, economic and educational issues – which also enable the network to anticipate the new challengers and present innovative views and solutions.

The activities of the network are determined by its members' needs and priorities. Following the work already started the previous year, ACR+ will continue to focus its efforts on facilitating the transmission of expertise to and between ACR+ members, capitalising on projects and sharing existing experiences. A programme of monthly webinars is already in preparation as well as two reports (on organic waste and construction and demolition waste) and an international conference on EPR and marine litter. The different activities foreseen during the year are described in details in this document, gathered under the following themes:

- Livening up the network
- Awareness raising and communications
- Operational instruments and monitoring
- Legal and economic instruments
- Strategy and planning
- Cooperation and capacity building
- Promotion of ACR+

# Livening up the network

*ACR+ is, first and foremost, a network of (and for) members. Their involvement guarantees the quality of the services offered by the network. Thus, ACR+ Secretariat continuously listens and replies to members' expectations, keeping in mind its aim to facilitate transfer of knowledge and capitalise on projects as well as being a bridge between members.*

## 1.1. Continuity of existing services

- **General and technical information**

ACR+ members benefit from regular updates regarding the latest developments in the world of material resource management. ACR+ also publishes in-depth reports and studies on topical issues with updated data, building on the Secretariat's and members' expertise, and linked with the projects carried out by ACR+. In 2018, ACR+ will continue to offer to its members:

- **The Newline:** weekly newsletter gathering updates about ACR+ activities, news from members as well as news from different countries in the field of material resource management;
- **The EU Digest:** bi-monthly newsletter offering a thorough overview of the news from the European institutions;
- **Reports and benchmarking studies:** three reports are foreseen for the upcoming year. As an activity of the European Observatory on municipal waste performances, ACR+ will publish a benchmark report on organic waste management in 5 European cities combined with guidelines on the organic fraction management. A second publication is foreseen on European good practices in construction and demolition waste management. In addition, ACR+ has already started working with its new member IBOGEM on a benchmarking study regarding deposit refund system performances across Europe and more (to be published in the second semester).

- **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 requires that at least one of its members is also a partner.

- **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 addition, 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.

Members can benefit from ACR+'s reputation and clearly show their affiliation to the network by displaying the logo "a member of" on their communication tools (presentations, website, etc.).

## 1.2. Improvement of the website

ACR+ will continue the work of re-designing its website, which has started the previous year, to improve the access to information and facilitate the browsing of the website. For this both the public and the private part of the website will undergo changes. In addition to some changes in the design, the website will be made responsive to facilitate its access on mobile devices.

The Member Space will see additional features being included such as:

- 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 key-words 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

The ACR+ website will also continue to be regularly updated, with a specific attention 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.

## 1.3. Transfer of knowledge

Last year, ACR+ decided to put a focus on the transfer of knowledge. Efforts were taken with success to capitalise on the different projects and their outputs and share with members the experience and knowledge gained by ACR+ staff through them. Seeing the success of the action in 2017, this focus will be kept for 2018. It will be concretised by the organisation of monthly webinars open only to ACR+ members (with recordings available afterwards), the update of the virtual library (available in the Member Space of the website) and possibly the organisation of trainings.

### **Draft programme of webinars for the first semester 2018:**

- January – Local composting strategies (in cooperation with BCNEcologia)
- February – Boosting separate paper collection: IMPACTPapeRec handbook of good practices
- March – Climate Chance: roadmap for circular economy coalition
- April – Using remote sensing technologies to tackle waste crime
- May – Social aspects of industrial symbiosis
- June – Creating synergies between regional value chains

Regarding webinars, 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. Interested members are invited to contact the ACR+ Secretariat.

## 1.4. Follow-up of European legal activities

ACR+ will continue to closely follow the decision process on the waste package and duly inform its members in case of an important update. ACR+ will continuously engage with the European institutions, in particular the European Commission and the European Parliament, and regularly assist to the events they organise (conferences, stakeholder consultations, etc.).

ACR+ will in particular be active in the coordination group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform and as a member Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy (cf. activities of the Circular Europe Network).

## 1.5. Supportive Members package

To reply to the needs of its members requesting additional information and tailored-made support to address a challenging waste fraction, to prepare a project or increase their staff's skills on circular economy, ACR+ has introduced the [Supportive Member package](#). Thanks to this package, ACR+ Supportive Members can receive during one calendar year more specific services to satisfy their needs while boosting their visibility within and outside the network. The Supportive Member package is also a way to strengthen ACR+ activities on strategic topics that would not be covered by European projects or other external funding sources.

# Awareness raising and communication

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

## 2.1. The European Week for Waste Reduction



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

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

In 2018, as for the previous EWWR editions, ACR+ will assume the role of the European Technical Secretariat for the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the EWWR. ACR+ will provide support to the EWWR Coordinators (40 in 2017) and Action Developers ensure the promotion and communication of the initiative. In May, ACR+ will organise the annual n EWWR Awards competition and ceremony where the most outstanding actions of each edition are rewarded, as well as the Coordinators' meeting where participants can exchange and discuss their best practices for waste reduction. ACR+ will also develop the [Thematic Focus 2018](#) by providing new factsheets on a specific waste prevention topic and supervise the organisation of the Let's Clean Up Europe campaign during the Spring.

In accordance with the ACR+ commitment within the circular economy action of the Climate Chance initiative, ACR+ will put all its efforts to develop the EWWR in the MED area for the 2018 edition, starting with Morocco and Tunisia.

### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ Spring: Let's Clean Up Europe!
- ♦ 22 May: EWWR Awards Ceremony during the Green Week in Brussels (tbc)
- ♦ 17-25 November: 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the EWWR

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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. COLLECTORS



The project focuses on good practices for the collection and sorting of three waste categories: packaging and paper waste, WEEE, and construction and demolition waste. The project aims at highlighting and documenting good practices relevant to specific challenges (dense cities, remote areas and territories with limited resources) to set up an ambitious waste strategy. To make these practices meaningful to local decision makers, they will be analysed on different parameters: quality of sorted material, social acceptance, economic performance and environmental impact.

In 2018, the main focus will be put on

- Data collection (waste collection and sorting performances);
- Choice of 12 case studies for in-depth analysis of performances and impacts;
- Analysis of external factors easing or challenging the implementation of effective waste strategies;

ACR+' main tasks will be centred on the involvement of external stakeholders in the project, mainly public authorities. To do so, a Regional Working Group will be set, bringing together local and regional authorities willing to share their experience and data, and to provide feedback on the project's development. Several members of this group will meet during the first project meeting held in Treviso on 21/03/2017. ACR+' staff will be involved in most of the project's work package to provide information and data and ensure the project's outcomes are relevant to public authorities' interests.

Beside, ACR+ will be in charge of developing the communication strategy and tools (including visual identity, website, and communication material).

### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 20-22 March: kick-off meeting with 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Working Group in Treviso (Italy)

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## 3.2. 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 new Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC and its obligation to reach the target of a 50% municipal recycling rate by 2020.

In 2017, ACR+ has collected municipal waste data from 17 European cities and provided a detailed analysis in a publication issued in December 2017. The collected data were organised in a waste database which will be improved and expanded with other local data, thus enabling further analysis. ACR+ will take advantage of the various projects it is involved in, especially COLLECTORS, whose first year will be mainly devoted to data collection. Moreover, the implementation of a Regional Working Group within the COLLECTORS project will allow the invitation of all the Observatory participants to pursue discussions and comparisons among local and regional authorities.

### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ May: presentation first version of the EU Cities Waste Management Benchmark

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## 3.3. DECISIVE



**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.

Many outputs will be produced in 2018, regarding the method for the implementation of decentralised bio-waste management systems and decision support tool, more researches for the processes and the preparation of the pilot implementation. The decision support tool will enable territories and waste management companies to assess the potential arising of bio-waste, identify possible location for micro-AD plants and assess the potential impact of a decentralised system.

Two demonstrations sites will be implemented in Lyon, France and Catalonia, Spain.

ACR+ will take part to some of these tasks, but more importantly is in charge of delivering several outputs (beside the traditional coordination of communication):

- A video presentation of the project by Feb 2018 (in collaboration with Suez);
- A report on a state of the art of communication and incentives to promote bio-waste separation due in June 2018 focusing on existing practices and an evaluation of their effectiveness. The report will also have to make some propositions for the communication and incentives of the pilot plants.
- Communication materials (flyers, adds, news and banners for website...) for the demonstration sites.

#### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ February: report on decentralised collection models and database
- ♦ February: method for decentralised bio-waste management
- ♦ August: decision support tool available

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### 3.4. 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.

FISSAC has held its first webinar in February 2017. This first webinar has focused on industrial symbiosis and best practices, as well as providing a brief introduction to the [FISSAC software platform](#) which is currently under development.

ACR+ has provided a [report](#) on the Strategies for social engagement and acceptance for FISSAC. Actually, beyond the technical feasibility of the exchanges of materials, social elements also play a crucial role in the development of Industrial Symbiosis. An important aspect is that industrial symbiosis supports a number of the United Nations Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs). A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. The social engagement and acceptance will be mainly analysed during the FISSAC nine [regional living labs](#). The living lab leaders will engage actors from the construction industry value chain to identify appropriate challenges related to industrial symbiosis in their regions. Through purposely designed meetings their collaborative knowledge and experience will then be used to understand how these challenges can be addressed.

Furthermore, ACR+ will continue to work on guidelines on the role of public authorities in sustainable construction to achieve a circular economy.

**Upcoming milestones:**

- ♦ April: 2<sup>nd</sup> Webinar
- ♦ October: Guidelines on the role of public authorities in sustainable construction to achieve a circular economy

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### 3.5. 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.

In 2018 the project will mainly focus on new valorisation routes (textiles, plastics, PU foams, wood). Some analysis will be performed to see how UrbanRec's findings can improve the situation in the four target territories (Flanders, Valencia, Izmir and Warsaw).

ACR+ will mainly work on:

- General dissemination
- Legal working groups: 2 new meetings to be organised focusing on the challenges for the use of recycled materials in production processes, on two waste streams: textiles and plastics.
- Working on a guide for bulky waste management based on the project's findings.

**Upcoming milestones:**

- ♦ 19-23 February: project meeting in Belgium
- ♦ 23 February: public event on bulky waste collection in Mechelen
- ♦ 2 legal working group meetings in Brussels (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester)

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### 3.6. RE4



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

ACR+ already produced an assessment of the use of economic instruments and their potential impact on the performance of CDW management systems. During 2018, ACR+ will cooperate with project partners to the realization of next RE<sup>4</sup> milestones, focused on assessing potential applications of recovered CDW materials.

#### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ April: Report in quality classes and potential applications for recovered CDW derived materials
- ♦ June: Project General Assembly in Brussels
- ♦ August: Report on Life Cycle Assessment and Social-Life Cycle Assessment of C&D raw materials

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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. 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. In December 2017, a planning meeting for 2018 was held and several lunch debates are already foreseen to take place during the year. Furthermore, several EPR Club members – including ACR+ - already decided to organise an international conference on EPR and marine litter in the last quarter of 2018.

ACR+ has proposed to organise two lunch debates: one on textiles (linked to plastic recycling targets and textiles made of recycled plastics) and another one on cost coverage of EPR schemes. Three other concrete proposals have been submitted by other ACR+ and EPR Club members (eco-modulation of EPR fees; online retailing and free-riders; communication). Some additional proposals can be expected.

In addition to the events, members (ACR+ and EPR Club members) have exclusive access to the Virtual Library which can be accessed through the members-only area of the [EPR Club website](#). A special focus will be dedicated to this virtual library in 2018 in order to improve the knowledge base and information exchange among EPR Club members, hopefully with the help of all EPR club members.

#### Upcoming milestones:

Several lunch debates throughout the year  
Autumn: international conference

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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

ACR+ will be involved in the GUF Tool validation and will facilitate its testing by mobilising public procurers, in particular among its members and other relevant contacts active on public procurement. ACR+ will also continue to coordinate the project's communication activities and will disseminate project's progress via the LIFE FUTURE newsletter.

### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ March: Webinar on GPP of urban furniture and the GUF Tool
- ♦ March: Project coordination meeting in Valencia

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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 goal 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.

### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ March-September: cycle of webinars on different aspects of waste regulation and enforcement
- ♦ April: Report on innovative uses of waste flow tracking devices
- ♦ December: 2<sup>nd</sup> bundle of inter-agencies intervention tackling waste crime

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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 for the circular economy 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+ will continue to work more actively on developing and implementing training schemes. Through this training programme, ACR+ will capitalise on its experience and projects, and will build up on the training course implemented in July 2017 together with Venice International University. In particular, the modules developed for the training course could be exploited by ACR+ supportive members interested in increasing capacities of their local stakeholders about the following steps:

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

The webinar cycle initiated in 2017 will continue (see section 1.3 on knowledge transfer), with some webinars specifically addressing circular economy, in particular synergies between fundings for circular economy (via the SCREEN project), links between bio-economy and circular economy, as well as financing circular enterprises.

ACR+ will also continue to reinforce its training offer through its Erasmus+ activities, in particular the CYCLE project and new proposals to be submitted in 2018 under this programme.

In addition, a short mission for Confindustria will involve the delivery by ACR+ of a training program aiming at allowing a group of young professionals to improve their entrepreneurial skills through a training course on sustainable business model design.

- **Publications**

In order to keep getting closer to local authorities and decision makers, ACR+ will continue to promote its CEN General guidelines on circular economy strategies by local and regional authorities, in particular by highlighting the languages in which the document is 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 published in Polish and they will be promoted during an event organised in Brussels during the first semester 2018.

Specific guidelines are also meant to complement the CEN general publication. In particular, ACR+ will publish in March 2017 the translation and adaptation of a roadmap on circular procurement developed by MVO Nederland. ACR+ will also work on guidelines for the construction sector, with the contribution from various projects, including FISSAC.

In addition, the guidelines on sustainable food that were started in 2016 will be published in June 2018. 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**

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. This work will be continued in 2018, by enriching the database with inspiring new cases and good practices.

In order to provide more concrete information on circular economy practices, ACR+ will continue to analyse more in-depth 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. In order to prepare the first in-depth factsheet focusing on incubators for green business, some specific activities, including site visits, could be implemented.

The analysis of case studies and good practices would be also pushed and facilitated through the contacts established in the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP) and the Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy (UAPCE).

- **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. Other kinds of information are also available, for instance meetings and events, publications, etc. 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 publication on the roles of local and regional authorities towards the prosperity of local SMEs published by ACR+ last October 2017. 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 general guidelines on circular economy strategies), while the full content of the CEN deliverables is meant for ACR+ members only.

## • Collaborations

ACR+ has been included in several European initiatives in 2017, the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP) and the Urban Agenda Partnership on Circular Economy (UAPCE), and will continue to use these initiatives to promote good practices from its members and synergies between ACR+ work and the further activities of these initiatives. In particular, ACR+ will contribute to the development and implementation of actions from the UAPCE regarding Urban Resource Centres, a Circular Cities Funding Guide and a Circular Cities Portal.

As member of the advisory board of the H2020 project SCREEN on synergies between European regions on circular economy, ACR+ continues to participate to the SCREEN Policy Lab, providing input and review of the SCREEN project deliverables. Further cooperation could involve the implementation of a webinar and some coaching to replicate the SCREEN methodology on finding synergies between regional authorities.

### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 17-18 January: UAPCE meeting in Brussels
- ♦ 20-21 February: ECESP meeting in Brussels
- ♦ 21 February: CEN meeting in Brussels
- ♦ May: CEN meeting in Brussels + UAPCE meeting

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

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## 5.2. CIRCTER



The main objective of this service on circular economy (CE) is to provide evidence on the territorial dimension of the transition towards a circular economy and to provide evidence on local and regional patterns and flows of materials, including resources and waste. The analysis of the territorial dimension aims to cover changes in resource use, design, production, distribution, consumption and waste management. In addition, it aims to provide input to European regions and cities on their potential for implementing steps towards a circular economy

ACR+ will mainly work on a relatively comprehensive but not exhaustive review of policies that have been contributing to the transition towards CE on different administrative levels: EU, national, regional and local. The overall goal is to have a much better understanding of the links between the CE and the territories through a policy perspective.

ACR+ second main task is to collaborate on the CIRCTER Case Studies that are aimed at taking stock and grasping what has been done and what can be done in relation to implementing a CE in European regions, cities and metropolitan areas. Three ACR+ members will be cases analysed (out of 6): Scotland (UK), Brussels-Capital Region (BE) and Maribor (SL).

#### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 8 February: Discussion on the inception report with ESPON
- ♦ July: Analysis of the CE policy approaches
- ♦ November: Analysis of 6 cases study on regions and cities

<https://www.espon.eu/circular-economy>

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### 5.3. 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 year and half after the kick-off of this project the initial screening and identification of potential measures and solution have been done in all 11 pilot cities and regions. These were the results of a series of Community of Practices meeting held in the 11 pilots, as well as an online consultation through the URBAN-WASTE website.

2018 therefore starts with the 6th Mutual Learning event in Nice which will see trainings which accompany the measures chosen by the pilots which will be implemented over the year. Another milestone and an important feature of the project will have its big premiere – 5 out of the 11 pilots will put the first 5 signatures on the Charter which will give the project an added value. This will, later this year, be promoted and disseminated on the European level by ACR+ in order to ensure an appropriate outreach and multiplication. The WasteApp and Food waste tracker, two softwares developed by the project will also be presented in Nice with their developers providing a training session to the pilots.

The project will continue involving external partners, including industry, business, science and local and regional authorities. Therefore ACR+ invites its members to express their interest in the project and join us for the different activities we do within the project's framework.

#### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 24 January: launch of the Charter of Commitment
- ♦ 24-25 January: Mutual Learning event in Nice, France
- ♦ April: 2nd URBAN-WASTE webinar
- ♦ Spring: Mutual Learning event in Ponta Delgada, Portugal

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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 expertise 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 synergies with its members and EU policy makers on marine litter and sustainable tourism. Furthermore, ACR+ is in charge of developing a charter of commitments to promote marine waste reduction policies and sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean area. The charter will be shared with the members of ACR+ and with a wide network of regional public actors in the Mediterranean area.

#### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ March: Publication of the report on seasonal variation of waste in MED islands; Publication of the report overview of the impact of tourism on wastewater production
- ♦ April: Project mid-term Conference in Brussels
- ♦ August: international tourist information campaign on waste reduction

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

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## 6.2. CYCLE



CYCLE project aims to create a set of tools that support the introduction of circular economy competences in adult training, contributing to the creation of an attractive learning pathway for trainers and making up for the existing gap in this area.

The CYCLE project results will help trainers and facilitators providing any form of adult learning – formal and not formal –not directly linked to the labour market. ACR+ is the Dissemination Strategy coordinator of the project. As such, ACR+ will ensure consistent and efficient communication, guarantee the visibility of project and programme and disseminate good practices and policies. ACR will also be in charge of engaging stakeholders and scaling up the dissemination impact of the project.

In addition, ACR+ will contribute to the development of two core outputs: a pedagogical approach to integrate the circular economy in adult education an e-learning platform to improve the knowledge and skills of trainers and adult learners in the field of the circular economy, by providing a collaborative learning environment and learner-centred training contents..

### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ June: publication of pedagogical approach and guidelines

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## 6.3. 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.

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. ACR+ also coordinates the project's communication activities and will ensure that synergies will be created with its other relevant projects, in particular Blue Islands and URBAN-WASTE.

### Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 13-14 June: Thematic seminar on waste minimisation in Cordoba (Spain)
- ♦ November: workshop on action plans in Tallinn (Estonia)

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

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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+ received requests for Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan regarding among others demolition and construction waste, marine litter, public authorities' capacity building in circular economy. In 2017, ACR+ conducted two missions in Israel upon the request of the Israeli ministry of Environment on plastic and glass waste stream and organised a 3 days regional workshop on demolition and construction waste in Belgium.

2018 activities are already planned in Morocco (on marine litter and coastal planning) and in Tunisia (on single use plastic bags strategy and multilayers packaging management).

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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

By working on its online presence ACR+ aims at showcasing the network's activities and affirming its reputation. This is achieved through:

- **ACR+ website:** the public part of ACR+ website will be regularly updated
- **Social networks:**
  - o Twitter: the account was launched in 2013 and is continuously attracting new followers. It will continue to be 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. For 2018, ACR+ aims at reaching a number of 2,400 followers, posting at least once a day, and having at least 500 profile visits each month.
  - o LinkedIn: in 2016 ACR+ started being active on LinkedIn once again. In 2018 the objective is to increase the number of updates on the ACR+ page (at least 2 each month) and increase the number of followers (currently 612) to reach a number of 650.
- **Mailings:** ACR+ publishes the ACR+ Update, a quarterly newsletter sent to all of its subscribers giving a thorough overview of ACR+ activities. 3 Updates are planned to be sent in 2018. With the new website being available ACR+ aims at increasing its list of subscribers and reaching more people with the Update.

### 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.

- **Position papers**

ACR+ can contribute to large-scale discussions on topical issues by publishing position papers expressing the opinion of ACR+ and its members' on the topic.

## 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 will be kept in 2018:

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

## Annex: Planned ACR+ events 2018

Date	Event	Topic	Type of activity	Place
17-18 Jan.	UAPCE meeting	Circular economy	Meeting	Brussels, BE
18 Jan.	Possibilities of decentralized biowaste management through local composting	Composting	Webinar	Online
24 Jan.	Final conference - Boosting separate paper collection	Separate paper collection	Conference	Brussels, BE
24-25 Jan.	6th Mutual Learning event	Food waste	Workshop	Nice, FR
15 Feb.	Boosting separate paper collection: IMPACTPapeRec handbook of good practices	Separate paper collection	Webinar	Online
20-21 Feb.	ECESP meeting	Circular economy	Meeting	Brussels, BE
21 Feb.	CEN meeting	Circular economy	Meeting	Brussels, BE
23 Feb.	Public event - Bulky Waste Collection	Bulky waste collection	Conference	Mechelen, BE
March	Green Public Procurement of urban furniture and the GUF Tool	Green public procurement	Webinar	Online
March	Climate Chance: roadmap for circular economy coalition	Circular economy	Webinar	Online
20-22 Mar.	Kick-off meeting COLLECTORS	Waste collection and sorting	Project meeting	Treviso, IT
21 Mar.	COLLECTORS First Regional Working Group	Waste collection and sorting	Working group	Treviso, IT
April	URBAN-WASTE webinar	Tourism and waste	Webinar	Online
11 Apr.	Towards a circular economy and sustainable tourism on islands	Marine litter; sustainable tourism	Conference	Brussels, BE

Date	Event	Topic	Type of activity	Place
18 Apr.	Remote sensing technologies to tackle waste crime	Tackling waste crime	Webinar	Online
May	CEN meeting	Circular economy	Meeting	Brussels, BE
May	Social aspects of industrial symbiosis	Industrial symbiosis	Webinar	Online
22 May	EWWR Awards Ceremony	Best practices on waste reduction	Conference	Brussels, BE
23 May	EWWR Coordinators & Steering Committee meetings	EWWR planning	Project meeting	Brussels, BE
June	Creating synergies between regional value chains	Circular economy	Webinar	Online
June	RE4 General Assembly	Construction Demolition Waste	Project meeting	Brussels, BE
13-14 June	INTHERWASTE 4th Thematic seminar	Waste minimization in heritage areas	Conference, study-visit, project meeting	Cordoba, ES
Nov. (tbc)	INTHERWASTE workshop on action plan	Waste management in heritage cities	Project meeting	Tallinn, EE
17-25 Nov.	10th EWWR	Waste prevention	Campaign	n/a
1st sem.	URBANREC Legal Working Group meetings	Bulky waste	Working group	Brussels, BE
2nd sem.	URBANREC Legal Working Group meetings	Bulky waste	Working group	Brussels, BE
Spring	Mutual Learning event	Tourism and waste	Event	Ponta Delgada, PT

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