

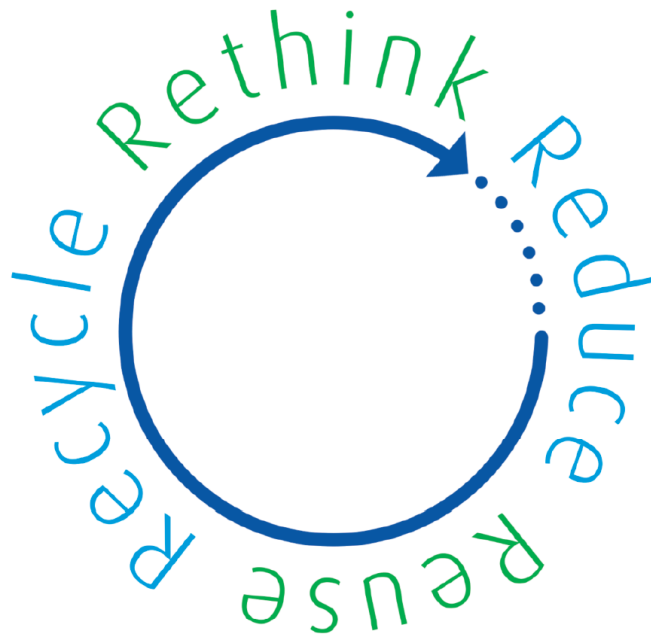


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ASSOCIATION
OF CITIES
AND REGIONS
FOR RECYCLING
AND SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

ACR+

WORK PROGRAMME 2019



Brussels | January 2019

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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 resource efficiency and the circular economy. As an international network of public authorities that is 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 by working directly with all the actors involved in the transition to sustainable, resource-efficient and low-carbon societies.

Being part of this transformation requires that local and regional authorities possess the right tools and knowledge. To that end, ACR+ offers its members the 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 frontrunners 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 the 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 challenges 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 among ACR+ members, capitalising on projects and sharing existing experiences. A programme of monthly webinars is already in preparation, as well as three publications (on waste and tourism, paper and packaging waste and construction and demolition waste) and an international conference on trans-national cooperation on EPR. The different activities foreseen during the year are described in detail in this document, grouped under the following themes:

- ACR+ at 25
- Awareness raising and communications
- Operational instruments and monitoring
- Legal and economic instruments
- Strategy and planning
- Cooperation and capacity building
- Promotion of ACR+

ACR+ at 25

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

As our association enters its second quarter century, ACR+ members and their interests and needs will continue to underpin our day-to-day activities. Having positioned itself as a mature network of authorities, civil society representatives, experts, policymakers and private sector actors, ACR+'s goals looking ahead are to expand itself both within and outside of Europe. While Central, Western and Northern Europe have always been our stalwarts, we aim to have a similar presence in Eastern and Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean region in the years to come and to expand our network and influence internationally.

The groundwork for our expansion has already been laid. Having promoted sustainable resource management and more generally the circular economy in the Middle East and North Africa for over a decade, ACR+ has intensified its activity in the region in recent years through projects like SWIM-H2020 (see page 21), which has facilitated our contact with key stakeholders in countries like Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine and the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR).

One of the main developers of Climate Chance, a global summit for non-state actors fighting against climate change, ACR+ has endeavoured to further roll out the EWWR in the Mediterranean region and beyond in the coming years. Furthermore, seeing how the rate of participation of countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in EWWR has been chequered, ACR+ is seeking to strengthen its network in the region in order to ensure a more sustained presence there.

Looking ahead, the ACR+ Secretariat and Board of Directors aim to expand the organisation further afield. In order to achieve that, ACR+ will leverage its European network and expertise in areas like EPR and circular economy in an urban context. To that end, we have planned initiatives for 2019 like (1) speaking at the Global Product Stewardship Council Forum in Paris in July, which will attract over 400 EPR experts from around the globe, and (2) forging a partnership with counterparts in India in order to organise circular economy workshops in September to train the staff of various Indian regional and local authorities.

1.1. Ongoing member support

- **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 its members' expertise, and linked with the projects carried out by ACR+. In 2019, ACR+ will continue to share relevant information to its members through:

- **The Newslines:** 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:** Newsletter offering a thorough overview of the news from European institutions three times per year;
- **Reports and benchmarking studies:** two reports are foreseen for the upcoming year. ACR+ will publish a Guidelines and European good practices in construction and demolition waste management. A second publication is foreseen on material resource management in touristic areas as a capitalisation of several projects in which ACR+ has been involved in recent years. Finally, research will be done on the carbon footprint resulting from consumers' day-to-day activities (research aiming to support a public awareness campaign to be launched during the 2019 edition of the EWWR).

- **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 Newslines (through the monthly section "Eye on Member" and weekly section on "Members' news"), on the website (the section "Members' news" is also featured on the homepage), in the events calendar and on its Twitter account. Members are warmly invited to share with the ACR+ Secretariat their 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. Improving 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 purpose, both the public website and the members' area 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 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. Efforts will be made to ensure the good positioning of both the home page and individual articles using web analytics and search engine optimisation. In the members' space, 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.

1.3. Transfer of knowledge

In 2017, ACR+ decided to put a focus on the transfer of knowledge. Successful efforts have since been made 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 our work thus far, this issue will remain a focus for ACR+ in 2019. In practice, this translates into the organisation of monthly webinars open only to ACR+ members (with recordings available afterwards in the members' space on the website), the update of the virtual library and possibly the organisation of trainings.

Draft programme of webinars for the first semester 2019:

- January – BioHEC-LIFE project presentation: “Food waste management: the case of biofuels”
- February – ECOWASTE4FOOD project presentation: “Local and regional action plans addressing food waste through support to eco-innovation”
- March – SCREEN project presentation: Creating synergies among regional value chains
- April – The door-to-door collection system in Catalonia
- May – The social aspects of industrial symbiosis

ACR+ has also suggested that its members host webinars during which they will have the opportunity to present their activities and the projects in which they are involved. Members have been already been invited to contact the ACR+ Secretariat if they are interested.

1.4. Follow-up of European legal activities

Just like in previous years, ACR+ will continuously engage with European institutions in 2019, in particular the European Commission and the European Parliament, and regularly assist in 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). Furthermore, the association has been involved in a series of initiatives resulting from the EU plastics strategy. For instance, it has been invited by the European Commission to take part in the Circular Plastics Alliance, a platform gathering key stakeholders in the plastics value chains to promote new voluntary action by industry for more recycled plastics.

1.5. Supportive Members package

ACR+ has introduced the [Supportive Member package](#) to answer to the needs of its members requesting additional information and tailored-made support to address challenging waste fractions, to prepare projects or to enhance their staff's circular economy skills. Thanks to this package, ACR+ Supportive Members can receive, during one calendar year, more specific services, such as training sessions or support with the development of publications and proposals, 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, such as the link between smart cities and the circular economy, 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 behavioural change. 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 about waste prevention through the implementation of actions about sustainable resource and waste management across numerous countries in Europe and beyond during one single week. From 2009 to June 2017, the EWWR was funded under the LIFE+ Programme of the European Commission, first under the coordination 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 has continued its mission to reduce waste under the supervision of the new EWWR Steering Committee (find out more [here](#)) which includes several ACR+ members and is managed by ACR+. Under the new management, the project has continued to thrive. It now enjoys the support of a growing number of EU institutions and has been breaking new records with every edition. In 2018, at its 10th edition, over 14,300 waste reduction actions were carried out in more than 20 countries.

Just like in previous years, in 2019 ACR+ will assume the role of the European Technical Secretariat for the 11th edition of the EWWR, providing support to the EWWR Coordinators (35 in 2018) and Action Developers to ensure the promotion and communication of the initiative. In May, ACR+ will organise the annual 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 communications and informative materials about this years' **thematic focus** – which is waste education and communication about waste reduction – in the form of factsheets, posters and other materials that coordinators can use at the local level. Furthermore, for the sixth year in a row, ACR+ will continue to supervise the organisation of the Let's Clean Up Europe! campaign, which encourages citizens across Europe to join forces in cleaning up public spaces.

In accordance with ACR+'s commitment within the circular economy action of the Climate Chance initiative, the Secretariat will put all its efforts to continue the rolling out of EWWR in the MED area in 2019.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 1 March-30 June: Let's Clean Up Europe!
- ♦ 15 May: EWWR Awards Ceremony during the Green Week in Brussels
- ♦ 16-24 November: 11th edition of the EWWR

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 levels.

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 to highlight and document 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 based on different parameters: quality of sorted material, social acceptance, economic performance and environmental impact.

Having collected data about 240 waste collection systems, in 2019 the project consortium will identify, document and analyse 12 good practices, focusing on their environmental, economic and social impacts. The collected data will be presented in a public factsheet on an upcoming web platform in April 2019. The third project meeting, hosted by the city of Warsaw, will take place on 25-28 June 2019. A public conference will be held on 26 June 2019, focusing on the societal acceptance of waste management systems, and citizen awareness and participation.

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

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 25-28 June 2019: third project meeting in Warsaw, Poland
- ♦ 26 June 2019: Public conference, location TBC.

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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 are important ACR+ activities. 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 its obligation to reach the target of a 50% municipal recycling rate by 2020.

Seeing how the COLLECTORS consortium has compiled data on paper and packaging waste from about 140 municipalities, ACR+ will propose developing a report based on this information in the first half of 2019. The report will compare the performances of the various cities and analyse the links between performances, local instruments and external factors.

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3.3. 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.

This year's focus for DECISIVE will be the implementation and monitoring of two demonstration sites – in Lyon and Barcelona – which are expected to be up and running by the end of the first semester. In addition to promoting the demonstration sites, ACR+ will continue to contribute to the project by providing ongoing communications support, as it has done in past years. Specifically, the association will:

1. organise two focus groups on decentralised biowaste management;
2. will promote the project externally;
3. will make arrangements for one online and one physical meeting in Lyon;
4. and will help with project reporting.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ April 2019: Focus group on opportunities and barriers for decentralised biowaste management, Brussels
- ♦ S2/2019: Focus group on legal recommendations and incentives to promote decentralised biowaste management, TBD
- ♦ S2/2019: Workshop and site visit, Lyon, TBD

www.decisive2020.eu

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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. The new model aims 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.

Within FISSAC, ACR+ acts as a leader for the Dissemination Work Package and a task leader for the Social Engagement Task. The latter is important because, 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 Development 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.

Seeing how 2019 will be the last full year of the FISSAC project, ACR+'s efforts this year will be focused on ensuring that as many deliverables are completed as possible. Its activities will comprise, among others:

- Disseminating project results via owned (the website) and earned (social media) media, as well as at events;
- Contributing to recording a video summarising the results of the project;
- Organising two webinars in May and November 2019 respectively;
- Co-organising, in conjunction with project coordinator ACCIONA, the final conference;
- Elaborating two newsletters;
- Preparing three other deliverables.

ACR+ will place special a emphasis on communicating the ongoing activities that constitute the backbone of the project in order to familiarise ACR+ members with them and to create links among institutions and interested stakeholders.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ May and November 2019: two webinars
- ♦ June and December 2019: two newsletters
- ♦ December 2019 (TBC): final conference

<http://fissacproject.eu>

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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 2019, the project will present the results on new valorisation routes demonstrators (textiles, plastics, PU foams, wood). The four target territories (Flanders, Valencia, Izmir and Warsaw) will deliver trainings and will present the results of the testing of some of URBANREC's solutions. Finally, the results of the project will be presented during the final conference organised in Brussels in October.

ACR+ will mainly work on:

- General dissemination
- Development of e-learning modules on the project's main results
- Legal working group: last meeting to be organised to validate the proposals for the improvement of the EU legislation in relation with bulky waste.
- A guide for bulky waste management based on the project's findings.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 25 February: presentation of the project during the World Resource Forum in Antwerp
- ♦ April: legal working group meeting in Brussels
- ♦ 11-12 June: project meeting in Warsaw
- ♦ October: final conference in Brussels

www.urbanrec-project.eu

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3.6. 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 less than 50% is 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.

In 2019, the project partners will focus on finalising a pilot demonstration of CDW-based prefabricated elements; life-cycle and health and safety analysis of the abovementioned products; and efforts towards certification, standardisation and defining commercial strategy. ACR+'s main activities as part of this project will consist of support with the mapping and analysis of CDW recycling in prefabricated elements and with communications activities, such as newsletter articles, guides and workshops, aimed at disseminating the results of the project in its final stages.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 19-20 March: general assembly of project partners, Prague
- ♦ September: General assembly of project partners, TBD

www.re4.eu

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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.). Created in June 2012 at ACR+’s initiative, [the EPR Club](#) has today become a unique multi-stakeholder platform for discussion and exchange of information and best practices on issues related to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Europe.

Several activities are scheduled as part of the project in 2019. The year will start with a lunch debate on deposit-refund systems (DRS) as an application of the EPR principle and an instrument to achieve ambitious targets. This event will include an overview of the current situation and discussions in Europe regarding DRS for one-way beverage packaging and a presentation of the different points of view on the topic. Later in the year, ACR+ in collaboration with another EPR Club member – Rreuse – aim to organise a lunch debate on EPR for textiles. EPR Club member DSD is planning a discussion on communication related to this topic.

On 3 July 2019, ACR+ and DSD will co-organise an International conference on the topic of international cooperation on EPR. It will take place in Paris, France, as part of an event with global dimensions focusing on EPR and Product Stewardship. More members are likely to contribute to the organisation of this conference and additional proposals for events will be submitted during the year. Cooperation with European Institutions and national representatives will be further reinforced, and new – global – contacts will be established.

During the first semester of 2019, the EPR Club website will receive a major upgrade allowing members to benefit from a more user-friendly interface, including a more structured and better organised Virtual Library of resources on EPR.

Upcoming milestones:

- Several lunch debates throughout the year
- Summer: International conference, Paris
- S1/2019: Website and virtual library

www.eprclub.eu

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4.2. 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 in 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. Seeing how the project will end in 2019, it is anticipated that the extent of communications activities will increase this year. In addition to communicating overall project results, ACR+ will also support project partners with devising methods to share tools for environmental law enforcement and tackling waste crime.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ November: Final project conference, likely connected with an Interpol event (TBC)

www.lifesmartwaste.eu

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4.3. CircPro2



The project “Circular Procurement: Accelerate circular economy through procurement power, alliance- and capacity building” aims at leveraging procurement to invest in circular partnerships. The project focuses on three pivotal scaling strategies: 1) Minimum Circularity Requirements to help building markets of scale for suppliers; 2) transnational and

cross-industry communities of practice to build new and sustained partnerships between procurers, suppliers and the supply chain and 3) learning and practical collaboration between procurers.

ACR+ members Zero Waste Scotland and OVAM are also partners in the project.

As a network of public authorities focusing on improving local and regional circular economy strategies ACR+ will support gather knowledge about circular procurement cases from ACR+ network and other search. ACR+ will also provide training of public authorities about circular procurement (online and onsite). ACR+ will also disseminate information about the project’s progress and outputs to local and regional authorities within its network and to its other contacts in public authorities.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 7-9 May: kick-off meeting in Amsterdam

<https://northsearegion.eu/circpro2>

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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 on developing and implementing training schemes. In particular, 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. As such ACR+ will contribute to co-construct and implement a Circular Economy Training for Indian Cities in partnership with local Indian organisation, including face-to-face training and site visits.

The webinar cycle will continue (see section 1.3 on knowledge transfer), with some webinars specifically addressing circular economy, in particular cross-regional synergies for circular economy, as well as construction within a circular economy perspective.

ACR+ will also continue to reinforce its training offer through its Erasmus+ activities, in particular the CYCLE project and cooperation with its members.

• 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.

Specific guidelines are also meant to complement the CEN general publication, for instance on circular procurement and procurement of innovation with methodological guidance published in 2018. In addition, ACR+ will publish in June 2019 guidelines for the construction sector, with the contribution from various projects, including FISSAC and RE4.

- **Factsheets**

ACR+ has already published 180 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 2019, by enriching the database with inspiring new cases and good practices from ACR+ members and projects, with a specific focus on circular procurement in particular.

- **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 and 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 guidance material on circular procurement and procurement of innovation published in May 2018. 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 implementation of actions from the UAPCE regarding for instance circular economy indicators and the collaborative circular economy. ACR+ is also actively involved in the ECESP and will in particular organise a workshop on circular procurement in March 2019. ACR+ is also co-pilot of the Climate Chance Coalition on Circular Economy (CCCCC) and will continue to use that framework to promote the positive impact of circular economy on climate change mitigation.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 6-7 March: ECESP conference, including workshop on circular procurement
- ♦ 28-29 March: UAPCE meeting in Oslo
- ♦ 16 May: UAPCE meeting in Brussels

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.

In 2019, ACR+ will support the finalisation of the CIRCTER final report, mainly through the review of policies that have been contributing to the transition towards CE at different administrative levels and through the CIRCTER Case Studies, which included three ACR+ members (out of six project partners): Scotland (UK), Brussels-Capital Region (BE) and Maribor (SI).

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 21-22 February: Discussion on the final report with ESPON
- ♦ May: Delivery of the CIRCTER final report

<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 in the project: ORDIF (FR), Lisbon Municipality (PT) and Ambiente Italia (IT).

On its final stretch before the final project conference in May, URBAN-WASTE will increase the frequency and extent of the communications activities in order to ensure that the learnings developed during the project are communicated to participants and externally. The 11 pilot cities and regions taking part in URBAN-WASTE focused on developing best practices during 2017 and particularly 2018. In order to publicise the results of their efforts, ACR+ will help develop a series of guidelines for city managers and policymakers for urban waste management in tourist destinations. Furthermore, the association will contribute to the development of a series of reports about the project; will conduct one additional promotional action surrounding the Charter of Commitments developed by project partners in 2018; will organise three webinars; and will send out one newsletter during the first five months of the year.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 13-14 March: mutual learning session, Dubrovnik
- ♦ 7 May: Final conference, Brussels

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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 specifically in charge of coordinating the project's communication activities and ensuring synergies with its members and EU policy makers on marine litter and sustainable tourism. As BLUEISLANDS nears its end (a request to extend it to April 2020 has yet to be approved), project partners will carry out a multitude of reporting and communications activities in 2019. Foremost among them is a waste characterisation study, which will analyse: (1) waste production in the touristic areas of partner islands (selected areas include beaches and main streets lined with hotels, restaurants and shops) during the high season in June-October; and (2) waste collection methodologies. The study is expected to be published during the first trimester of the year. Furthermore, partner islands will devise and start implementing local action plans to tackle seasonal variations in waste generations due to tourism.

These efforts will culminate with an event that will seek to bring together stakeholders from local public authorities, NGOs, academia, the HoReCa sector and (private) waste companies to maximise the outreach and impact of the project.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ March: publication of waste characterisation study
- ♦ September (tentative): International event in Provence (TBC)

<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. ACR+ is the Dissemination Strategy coordinator of the project. As such, ACR+ has ensured consistent and efficient communication, guaranteeing the visibility of project and its programmes and disseminating good practices and policies. ACR+ has also been tasked with engaging stakeholders and scaling up the impact of the project.

In 2019, ACR+'s involvement will consist of two important actions. The first is an event on building circular economy competences through education, to be hosted by the European Parliament in February. Attracting specialists in education, employment and circular economy, the conference will provide a platform for the discussion of the link between skill creation, circular economy and education. In addition, ACR+ will contribute to completion of the CYCLE social learning web platform, an e-learning platform that will provide adult educators with practical and methodological tools to introduce training courses related to the circular economy. The platform is expected to be up in running by July and will include tools like ideas and concepts on circular economy; circular stories; train tools; and toolkits.

Upcoming milestones:

- ♦ 19 February: Event on circular economy competences in lifelong learning, European Parliament
- ♦ July: CYCLE social learning platform becomes operational

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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 in this project.

ACR+ is in particular in charge of providing its technical expertise to support project activities, especially regarding the gathering and sharing of good practices and the cross-sectional analysis of local implementation plans during the first phase of the project ending in March 2019. 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:

- ♦ 31 March: Good practices handbook and partners' action plans available
- ♦ 16-17 October: Project meeting for follow-up of Action Plans'

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 use in their own efforts towards curtailing marine pollution and sustainable water use.

ACR+ has received requests for support from Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan with issues ranging from demolition and construction waste to marine litter and public authorities' capacity building in circular economy.

The final activities of this project (to be completed by the end of the first trimester) will be conducted in February (Israel and Jordan) and March (Tunisia). The final meeting of the project will be held in Brussels on the 8 and 9 April.

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6.5. WINPOL



The [WINPOL project](#) – Waste Management Intelligent Systems and Policies – aims to improve policies for waste management so that they increasingly foster and promote the use of intelligent equipment and planning derived of it, significantly contributing to waste minimisation in European cities and regions.

The project is led by the ACR+ member EMULSA (ES) – the municipal company in charge of household waste collection in Gijón. ACR+ is the advisory partner and communication manager in the project, providing technical expertise and support to partners.

In 2019, partners will start the identification of good practices and will organise two thematic seminars – on the topic of “New technologies and efficient use of information in the waste field” and “Innovative models for waste collection, prevention and recycling”. Three site visits will take place during the year, open to attendance from project partners and their local stakeholders.

Upcoming milestones:

May: Thematic seminar on efficient use of information in the waste field (Slovenia)

Autumn: Thematic seminar on innovative models for waste collection, prevention and recycling (Greece)

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6.6. LIFE TACKLE



ACR+ has joined a consortium of seven other partners to work on addressing the environmental impact, including waste, of football. The three-year-long project, which is supported by UEFA, managed by Italy's Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and which counts the football federations of Sweden, Italy and Romania amongst its partners, will increase awareness of environmental management in football stadiums in order to reduce waste during football events and tackle other

environmental issues, including energy consumption and transportation. ACR+ member Lipor is among the consortium of project partners.

After a few preliminary meetings and visits in 2018, the pace of the implementation of the project will pick up in 2019. Thus, April will see the publication of a manual — Guidelines on Environmental Management in Football Events — that will consist of (1) a collection of good practices collected through field visits and interviews with stadium managers in Bucharest, Genoa, Milan, Sassuolo, Stockholm; and (2) an analysis of reports and studies previously published.

On 15 May, ACR+ will organise a session as part of the EU Green Week titled “How to TACKLE the environmental impacts of sport and football events?” The event aims to encourage the already growing debate on improving the environmental management of sport events and raising supporter level of awareness towards sustainability and will gather national football associations, stadium managers, local authorities, supporters and NGOs.

Starting in June, 10 stadiums across the EU will put into practice pilot studies of best practices in environmental management. The actions will be related to waste management, mobility, energy consumptions, green public procurement and other environmental issues that are important for the candidate stadiums.

Upcoming milestones:

April: Publication of manual of best practices in environmental management in stadiums

15 May: Session on tackling the environmental impact of sports events, Brussels

June: Start of 10 pilot studies on best practices

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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 to showcase 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:**
 - 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 2019, ACR+ aims at reaching a number of 3,000 followers (up from 2,271 at the time of writing), posting at least once a day (up from twice a week on average at the moment), and having at least 2,000 profile visits each month (up from 1,017 at the moment).
 - LinkedIn: in 2016, ACR+ started being active on LinkedIn once again. In 2019, the objective is to increase the number of updates on the ACR+ page to one per week (from once a month on average at the moment) and the number of followers from 771 to 1,000.
- **Mailings:** ACR+ publishes the ACR+ Update, a quarterly newsletter sent to all of its subscribers giving a thorough overview of ACR+ activities. Just like in previous years, three updates are scheduled to be sent throughout the year to update members on our activity.

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 2019, ACR+'s role as a network creator and fosterer will be particularly relevant, as several of the projects in which it is involved will come to an end. This will be an opportunity for ACR+ to retain the interest of both project partners and external stakeholders by organising impactful final project conferences and ensuring that the final reporting is effective and useful beyond the project.

- **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 the national or international levels, even more in the context of the 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 maintained in 2019:

- ALDA
- Climate Chance
- Medcities
- Covenant Of Mayors
- ISWA
- Circular Plastics Alliance

Annex: Planned ACR+ events 2019

| Date | Event | Topic | Type of activity | Place |
|-----------------|--|------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 17 Jan. | EPR Club lunch meeting: “Deposit-refund systems for single-use beverage packaging in Europe: exchange of experiences and points of view” | Circular economy | Meeting | Brussels, BE |
| 30 Jan. | BIOHEC-LIFE project presentation: Food waste management: the case of biofuels | Waste prevention | Webinar | Online |
| 05 Feb. | Building as material banks: a pathway for a circular future | Circular economy | Final Conference | Brussels, BE |
| 19 Feb. | “Circular Economy Competences Making the Case for Lifelong Learning” | Circular economy | Conference | Brussels, BE |
| 19 Feb. | WINPOL capacity building workshop | Waste management | Workshop | Brussels, BE |
| 25 Feb. | Presentation of URBANREC project at World Resource Forum | Circular economy | Forum | Antwerp, BE |
| 28 Feb. | ECO4WASTE project presentation: “Local and regional action plans to prevent food waste through support for eco-innovation” | Waste prevention | Webinar | Online |
| 1 March-30 June | Sixth edition of Let’s Clean Up Europe! Campaign | Waste collection | Hands on | Europe |
| 6-7 March | Circular economy stakeholder conference | Circular economy | Conference | Brussels, BE |
| 13-14 March | Mutual learning session on waste management in heritage cities | Waste management | Technical exchange | Dubrovnik, CR |
| 19-20 March | RE4: project partners meeting | Circular economy | Assembly | Prague, CR |
| April | Opportunities and barriers for decentralised biowaste management | Waste management | Focus group | Brussels, BE |
| 07 May | “Waste management in tourism. Does it even matter?” | Waste management | Final project conference | Brussels, BE |

| Date | Event | Topic | Type of activity | Place |
|------------|---|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 15 May | EWWR Awards Ceremony | Awareness | Ceremony | Brussels, BE |
| 15 May | How to TACKLE the environmental impacts of sport and football events? | Environmental management | Conference | Brussels, BE |
| May | The efficient use of information in waste management | Waste management | Thematic seminar | Slovenia |
| 11-12 June | URBANREC project meeting | Circular economy | Meeting | Warsaw, PL |
| 12-14 | ACR+ General Assembly | Circular economy | Assembly | Dublin, IR |
| 25-28 June | COLLECTORS project meeting | Circular economy | Meeting | Warsaw, PL |
| 3 July | International cooperation on EPR | Waste management | Conference | Paris, FR |
| September | Bluelands Event on waste management and tourism | Waste management | Conference | Provence, FR |
| October | URBANREC final conference | Circular economy | Conference | Brussels, BE |
| 16-24 Nov | 11 th edition of the European Week for Waste Reduction | Awareness | Hands on | Europe, world |

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