



ACR+

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ASSOCIATION
OF CITIES
AND REGIONS
FOR RECYCLING
AND SUSTAINABLE

ACR+ ACTIVITY REPORT 2012

ACR+ ACTIVITIES JANUARY - DECEMBER 2012



Brussels, November 2012

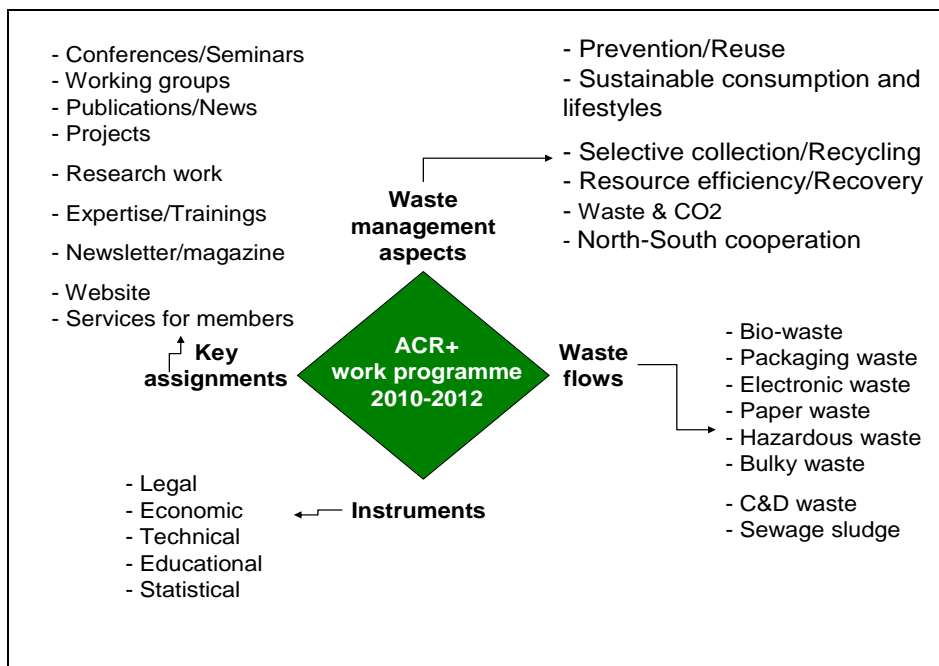
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Introduction

This report covers the period from January to December 2012.

This document intends to summarize the activities promoted by ACR+ in 2012, organised around the following working axis:



The ACR+ activities were based on 6 main subjects:

1. Waste reduction
2. Waste collection and treatment
3. Legal & economic instruments
4. EURO-MED network
5. Services to members

1. Waste reduction

At the top of the waste hierarchy that is promoted by the Waste Framework Directive is the concept of waste prevention (or reduction). This now needs to be put into practice in local and regional policies and actions. Communication is certainly at the core of waste prevention, but in order to integrate prevention into waste management planning and legal decisions, one must examine targets, indicators and how to monitor these factors. The challenge is building prevention strategies on the basis of very concrete measures and following up on their impact. This objective essentially has been structuring the type of activities ACR+ in the field of waste reduction.

1.2. European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR)



As in 2009 and 2010, ACR+ was in charge of the LIFE+ project EWWR, further developing the concept and organising a third edition in 2011. This activity covers a large number of tasks and is conducted in cooperation with ADEME (French Agency for the Environment) and certain other ACR+ Members (in particular ARC, LIPOR, IBGE). ACR+ assumes the role of technical Secretariat for the EWWR, in particular providing support to the organisers, communication, administration of the website and assisting in selecting candidates for awarding prizes to the best actions for European Waste Reduction.

In 2012, ACR+ continued the campaign in order to extend the concept to all European countries and regions, and increase the visibility of the actions and participants. The main goal was to ensure the continuation of the EWWR: it is important to examine how this could be organised on a more permanent basis and the possibility of getting renewed funding from the European Commission.

The EWWR project not only gets the attention of the general public and various specific audiences on the concept of waste reduction during one week, but is producing the emergence of a true community of actors in the field of waste prevention and to a leading method for sharing information on waste prevention via good practices, communication tools, data, etc.



This achievement is very much in line with, and in support of, the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98 which places waste prevention at the top of the hierarchy of intervention through the sharing of information on best practices regarding waste prevention (art. 29, 5).

The final conference of the LIFE+ EWWR project and the EWWR Awards Ceremony took place in Paris, on 19-20 June 2012.

In June 2012, ACR+ published the EWWR guide of good practices for waste reduction, on the basis of successful awareness raising actions implemented during the three editions of the LIFE+ project.

The 2012 edition of the EWWR will take place from 17 to 25 November 2012. 36 public authorities in 22 countries coordinate the EWWR in 2012, under the global coordination of the EWWR Technical Secretariat enacted by ACR+.

- More information on www.ewwr.eu
- ACR+ Secretariat contact: Philippe Micheaux Naudet (pmn@acrplus.org)

1.2. Online database of quantitative benchmarks for waste prevention

The ACR+ online database of case studies on quantitative aspects of waste prevention (released at the beginning of 2011) will be continuously updated as additional case studies become available and contributions are made. This database has been made exclusively available for ACR+ Members in their designated area of the ACR+ website and will provide inspiration to implement concrete actions for waste prevention actions while being able to assess their effectiveness.

- More information on www.acrplus.org/Database_quantitative_benchmarks

1.3. Indicators and methodology for monitoring prevention

The ACR+ pursues its efforts in putting together the technical tools to help set waste prevention targets and to monitor waste prevention actions. As in 2011, this mainly took place in the framework of two important (and complementary) European projects: Miniwaste and Prewaste, in which ACR+ is a partner.



LIFE+ project: Miniwaste

The Miniwaste project (2010-2012) aims to design, implement and assess an innovative and sustainable strategic plan to Minimise municipal organic WASTE in EU countries, and is piloted by Rennes Métropole (France). The results of the project will be presented at the **Miniwaste International Conference for bio-waste prevention in Rennes, on 20-21 November 2012**,

with a particular focus on the inventory of bio-waste prevention good practices, demonstration of actions in the partner cities, development of protocols on quantitative and qualitative assessment of composting and the development of a computerized tool to prepare and monitor waste prevention policies and actions.

For Miniwaste, besides publishing an inventory of good practices for bio-waste prevention in February 2011, ACR+ has also continued to play an important role in terms of the promotion of the project activities and the dissemination of the results, mainly via the website and the projects' newsletters. It has also provided input to the development of the Miniwaste protocols and the computerized tool.

- More information on www.miniwaste.eu
- Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Philippe Micheaux Naudet (pmn@acrplus.org)

1.4. Interreg IVC project: Prewaste



The Interreg IVC project called Pre-waste is led by the Marche Region (IT) and aims to improve regional/local waste prevention policies effectiveness by:

- the definition of a common methodology for regional waste prevention policies
- the exchange of good practices
- the assessment of waste prevention actions efficiency and monitoring:
- the dissemination of knowledge

Between 2011 and 2012, **50 factsheets on waste prevention good practices** have been published on the Pre-waste website. Feasibility studies on waste prevention actions and monitoring tools by the Prewaste partner cities and regions have been developed and presented during the **Pre-waste International Conference on waste prevention, in Brussels (7 November 2012)**.

- More information on: www.prewaste.eu
- ACR+ Secretariat contact: Philippe Micheaux Naudet (pnmn@acrplus.org)

1.5. Green Commerce project



Sustainable consumption/ distribution is directly linked with waste prevention. For a few years now, ACR+ has been developing its expertise in the field of promoting new consumption habits and behaviour changes for a more responsible consumption/ distribution.

ACR+ is also involved as a partner of the **LIFE+ project Green Commerce** lead by the Valencia Community (Spain). This project aims to mobilise small retail shops to set environmental objectives by making a series of tools and by ultimately, creating a code of conduct and a European label for Green Commerce.

In 2012, ACR+ has continued to produce and disseminate the bi-monthly Green Commerce Bulletin and to manage a European blog about the outcomes of the “Green Commerce” project and general information on the topic.



ACR+ also supported the Valencia region in the organisation of the **Green Commerce final conference**, which took place on **19 September 2012 in Brussels in partnership with the Brussels Chamber of Commerce**. The conference was intended to provide a platform for the exchange of information, experiences and good practices for a more sustainable retail sector in European cities and for networking with key people working towards sustainable, dynamic and prosperous small shops in urban area. The participants were furthermore given the opportunity to discover the assessment tool and the requirements for the Green Commerce label. The experiences and evaluation given as well as the discussion held attracted keen interest in the audience and ensued a lively and open discussion about the potential, advantages, disadvantages and future prospect of the Green Commerce recognition process and possible options to achieve the objective of improving the environmental impact in retail stores. The presentations made during the conference are available at www.acrplus.org.

The main deliverables of the project (ES/EN) are:

- [Environmental self-assessment tool for small shops](#)
- Methodology and requirements for the greening of small shops
- [Guide “Green Commerce”: Commitment to minimise the environmental impact of retailers](#)
- Video material available on www.lifeplusgreencommerce.eu

The Green Commerce project came to an end on 30 September 2012.

- More information on www.lifeplusgreencommerce.eu and www.acrplus.org/seminar_green_commerce

1.6. Retail Forum

As stakeholder representative, ACR+ is a member and follows the work of the European Retail Forum, co-chaired by the European Commission and the Retail Sector.

More information on ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/retail/index_en.htm

2. Waste collection and treatment

In the past few years, various developments have taken place regarding the aim of reaching a European recycling society. In 2012, the Association has increased its efforts to analyse, compare and promote the best practices concerning waste selective collection, treatment alternatives, financial schemes and how to optimise costs as well as address questions concerning certain waste flows like WEEE, glass, sewage sludge or bulky waste.

2.1. European decentralised observatory on municipal waste recycling performances



The collection of quantitative data concerning waste management at local and regional levels in Europe and specifically the links with recycling performance rates, are at the heart of ACR+ activities.

The subject is complex but a high interest has been drawn for identifying quantitative recycling targets and best practices, particularly due to the new Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC and its obligation to reach the target of a 50% municipal recycling rate by 2020.

ACR+ has tried to develop a **European Decentralised Observatory of municipal waste performances**. The Observatory focuses first and foremost on the analysis of recycling performances across different regional/local authorities in Europe. The Observatory also acts as a platform for sharing experiences and demonstrating statistical best practice amongst different cities. The development of the Observatory commenced in autumn 2010 after the ACR+ International conference **“Towards a European Observatory for municipal waste recycling performances”** on 17th September 2010, in Paris. The first meeting took place on 1st February 2011 in Brussels, with the participation of 30 waste management experts (ACR+ members) interested in the project. Three specific working groups have since been created with the participation of 24 regions. The first results were presented at the ACR+ international conference in Genoa in October 2011.

The ACR+ team carried out the **2nd Working Group meeting** in Paris on 17-18 April 2012. All **3 Observatory Working Groups** attended and actively participated in discussions related to waste data management. The outcomes of the **1st Observatory working document** were presented and discussed and conclusions were made regarding waste data gathering and benchmarking. A new working document will be published in November 2012.



- Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Philippe Micheaux Naudet (pnm@acrplus.org)

2.2. A research project on the good practices concerning recycling of glass from municipal waste



In partnership with FEVE (European Federation of Glass Packaging), ACR+ carried out a study aimed at identifying good practices of selective glass collection by the municipal waste managing authorities. The methodology of selective collection; quantity and quality of the glass waste ensuring closed-loop recycling were amongst the most important criteria to select the good practices.

The strategic objective established for this project was to increase awareness and dissemination of information on good practices of glass recycling with the aim of increasing the quantity and quality of

the cullet available. Eight case studies were selected for the purpose of this study through: desk based research, dissemination of questionnaires and phone conversation with Local Authorities.

The Authorities chosen were: Intradel – Liège (BE), Municipality of Graz (AU), LIPOR, Greater Porto Intermunicipal Waste Company (PT), Municipality of Maastricht (NL), Municipality of Lippe (DE), Canton of Geneva (SW), Grand Besançon (FR), Municipality of Odense (DK).

The report was published in February 2012 and is available on the ACR+ website: <http://www.acrplus.org/technical-reports>



2.3. Regions for Recycling (R4R)

Regions for Recycling (R4R) is a 3-year European project (January 2012- December 2014), aiming to enable its partners to **improve their recycling performance** through consistent comparisons and an exchange of good practices. R4R is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund's (ERDF) INTERREG IVC programme.

As one of the lead partners, ACR+ is in charge of Component 2, Communication and Dissemination. ACR+ supervises all internal and external communications activities, assuring close collaboration of the partners and providing for a wide dissemination of the project through meetings, brochures, newsletters, press releases, press conferences, events and a final conference at EU level.

So far, ACR+ has participated and assisted in the organisation of the R4R Launch Conference (including the Kick-off meeting): 18 - 20 April 2012, Paris. ACR+ has also:

- Prepared and disseminated the 1st Press Release of the R4R Project
 - Designed the R4R brochure
 - Prepared and disseminated 1st R4R Newsletter to all contacts and PPs
 - Developed the R4R website
- More information on www.regions4recycling.eu
 - Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Philippe Micheaux Naudet (pmn@acrplus.org)



2.4. TAIEX training (European Commission)



ACR+ (represented by Hara Xirou) participated as an EU expert in the 2 days' TAIEX training on: **Municipal waste selective collection and recycling** taking place on the 20th - 21st September 2012 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The training was organised in co-operation with [Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency](#) (SERDA), [Sarajevo Canton](#) and [ACR+](#) with the support of the [TAIEX programme](#) of the EU.

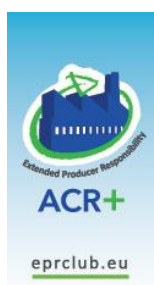
- More information about the TAIEX expert workshop www.acrplus.org/upload/documents/webpage/Conferences/Experts%27%20call%20Sarajevo%202012/Dr aft%20Agenda 47105%20SARAJEVO.pdf

3. Legal and Economic Instruments

Legal and economic instruments are powerful tools for influencing policy to encourage more sustainable behavior by private and public sectors as well as citizen-consumers.

The use of legal and economic instruments raises many questions:

- What are the benefits and the drawbacks of each system and its impact on performances and costs?
- What are the most appropriate instruments for achieving defined objectives?
- What are the consequences of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) systems for local and regional authorities?
- What is the impact of Pay-As-You-Throw systems on waste management performances?
- Which accompanying measures are necessary to ensure effective functioning of the chosen system?



3.1. ACR+ European EPR Club

The concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is at the centre of the evolution of the European waste and resources policies. There are many initiatives in the different Member States concerning new waste flows (textile, paper, furniture, oils, medicines, etc.) and there are also huge variations and new debates concerning the existing schemes (packaging, WEEE, batteries, etc.). Therefore ACR+ together with its members decided to develop the European “EPR Club”, a platform for exchange and debate about Extended Producer Responsibility.

This platform is an ACR+ initiative and co-founded with the specific involvement of the following ACR+ members: AICA (International Association for the Environmental Communication, Italy), ARC, Catalan Waste Agency, Spain, IBGE-BIM (Brussels Environment, Belgium, ISR, (Institute for Resource Sustainability, Spain), RUDOLOGIA (France).

The European EPR Club was launched on 4 June 2012 in Brussels, with a highly profile event, sponsored by SITA targeting key stakeholders such as public authorities, producers, distributors, waste management companies, EPR schemes, NGOs and academics as well as the European Institutions. The launch event received the **official patronage of Mr Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment** and was organised in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee.

Other activities that have been carried out since the launch include:

- 1st ACR+EPR Club introductory Webinar – 26 June 2012
- Two internal Steering Group meetings with the participation of the co-founders
- An EPR scheme and EU packaging law seminar, 26 October 2012

The EPR Club is mainly a web-based interactive focal point with a private members area, virtual library and regular webinars.

- More information on www.eprclub.eu
- Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Jean-Pierre Hannequart (jphannequart@environnement.irisnet.be) and Françoise Bonnet (fbonnet@environnement.irisnet.be)

4. EURO-MED Network

In 2012, ACR+ has continued its efforts in developing its network with cities and regions from the south and east of the Mediterranean area, with the aims of:

- Building the capacities of public authorities with regard to waste management and sustainable life styles;
- Exchanging information and expertise concerning solutions adapted to local technical, legal and financial contexts.

The main activities in this area have taken place within the framework of two European projects where ACR+ is a partner.

4.1. The GODEM project



GODEM (Optimised Waste Management in the Mediterranean) is funded as part of the EU program CIUDAD, and it is piloted by the Brussels-Capital Region. It involves the creation of a composting centre & integrated waste management complaint center, the organization of informal collection chains, the setting up of a civic amenity centre for recyclables and a plan of action for hotel waste management. The project ends in November 2012.

The main activities held in 2012 were:

- 3rd Regional Conference in Sousse (Tunisia), January 2012
- Final international conference in Mahdia (Tunisia), 13-14 November 2012

The GODEM network (ACR+ MED) is a project aiming to promote a dynamic partnership, whose objective is to bring together local/regional authorities from the Mediterranean basin, and develop synergies which will generate tangible solutions in the domain of “Optimised Management of Waste – Products – Resources” (Gestion Optimisée Des Déchets-Produits-Ressources or GIDDP).

As a follow up to the GODEM project, the ACR+ General Assembly, held in Genoa in October 2011, approved the decision to expand its networking activities to cover the geographical boundary of the ‘Union of the Mediterranean (43 countries being the EU 27 + 16 Mediterranean countries)’.

This new and unique network, called **ACR+ MED**, will be launched in November 2012 and should become a catalyst for fostering multi-stakeholder networking and partnerships in the field of waste management services at local and regional level. **ACR+ MED** aims to take into account the specificities of the region and at increasing expertise through the exchange of experiences between cities and regions from “MED” countries and from Europe.

The official launch of this Mediterranean network for local and regional authorities will happen at the international conference in Mahdia (Tunisia) from 13 to 14 November.

- Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Jean-Jacques Dohogne (jjd@acrplus.org)

4.2. The Horizon 2020 project

4.2.1. Horizon2020 Capacity Building programme

Horizon2020 The “Horizon 2020 Capacity building programme” is a project funded under the ENPI Mediterranean Environment Program (EuropeAid). ACR+ is the key thematic expert for waste management. A range of capacity building training sessions and study visits have been carried out under the responsibility of ACR+ in 2011 and will continue in 2012. Interested ACR+ Members are welcome to be involved as experts, under specific funding conditions.

The 2012 trainings/ study visits provided:

1. “Tendering process and contracts in municipal solid waste management” 22-24 March, 2012, Lebanon
2. “Minimizing Marine Litter in the Mediterranean” 21-23 May, 2012, Gothenburg, Sweden
3. ‘Gestion Intégrée Des Déchets (GIDD) pour autorités locales’ Fin Mars 2011, Maroc,
4. “Hazardous Industrial Waste Clean-up and Management” 10 to 12 July, 2012, Montenegro
5. “Waste to Energy as a complementary option for waste management in Egypt + strategic thinking on solid waste management options” Study visit, Netherlands and Belgium, 24 to 26 September 2012
6. “Integrated Sustainable Municipal Waste Management and sanitary landfilling (including the effects on nearby river systems)” 11-13 September 2012, Amman (Jordan)



Training in Montenegro

- Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Jean-Jacques Dohogne (jjd@acrplus.org)

4.2.2. Horizon 2020 – E-learning module

ACR+ has been requested to develop an e-learning module on Integrated Sustainable Waste & Resource Management (ISWRM). This training module elaborates on the concept of ISWRM, as a way of understanding and improving existing municipal solid waste management systems at municipal or regional level. The module has the following 6 lessons:

1. Introduction to the Concept
2. First dimension: Life Cycle Thinking
3. Second dimension: Waste hierarchy
4. Third dimension: Stakeholders
5. Fourth dimension: Operational aspects
6. Fifth dimension: Policy aspects

- Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Jean-Jacques Dohogne (jjd@acrplus.org)



5. Permanent services to ACR+ members and communication

5.1. Information services and networking



ACR+ continued following the evolution of the European policy on waste and resources in order to analyse its impact on local and regional authorities and inform its Members on upcoming changes. ACR+ also acted as stakeholder with European institutions aiming to make concerns and specificities of local authorities well heard.

In this respect, ACR+ strived to strengthen the steady dissemination of technical information for all related matters to its Members:

- **ACR+ Events and Working Groups** on specific topics, where ACR+ Members are partners
- **ACR+ Technical Reports** on specific topics, where ACR+ Members are partners
- **Warmer Bulletins**, a journal published every 2 months on sustainable waste management, featuring ACR+ editorials (last issue June 2012)
- **ACR+ Newslines** for weekly e-news
- ACR+ **website** and in particular the “members-only” content and area which will be expanding in 2013, especially concerning the publications
- **ACR+ Updates**, quarterly announcements of ACR+ activities and events
- **ACR+ Webinars**: ACR+ continued to use webinars as a simple and resource-efficient way to create a virtual meeting space in order to deliver trainings and disseminate information on ACR+ projects

In addition, several **open events** were organised in 2012, including:

- **EPR Club Launch Event**, June 2012
- **Green Commerce Congress**, September 2012
- **EPR Club Seminar**, October 2012
- **European Waste and Resource Days**, November 2012



Finally, the ACR+ pursued the preparation and search of finances for setting up new European projects in connection with its Members: project proposals were submitted under Life+ and Interreg IVC funding programmes.

- Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Katarzyna Koniacka-Giráldez (kk@acrplus.org) and Jean-Jacques Dohogne (jjd@acrplus.org)

5.2. ACR+ participated in the preparation of the 7th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns



This high-profile conference will take place on 17-19 April 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. ACR+ is a member of the Preparatory Committee and has been present during its meetings throughout 2012.

- More information on [www.acrplus.org/7th European Conference](http://www.acrplus.org/7th_European_Conference)
- Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Katarzyna Koniacka-Giráldez (kk@acrplus.org)