

ACR+ Policy and Governance

Activity Report 2024



INTRODUCTION

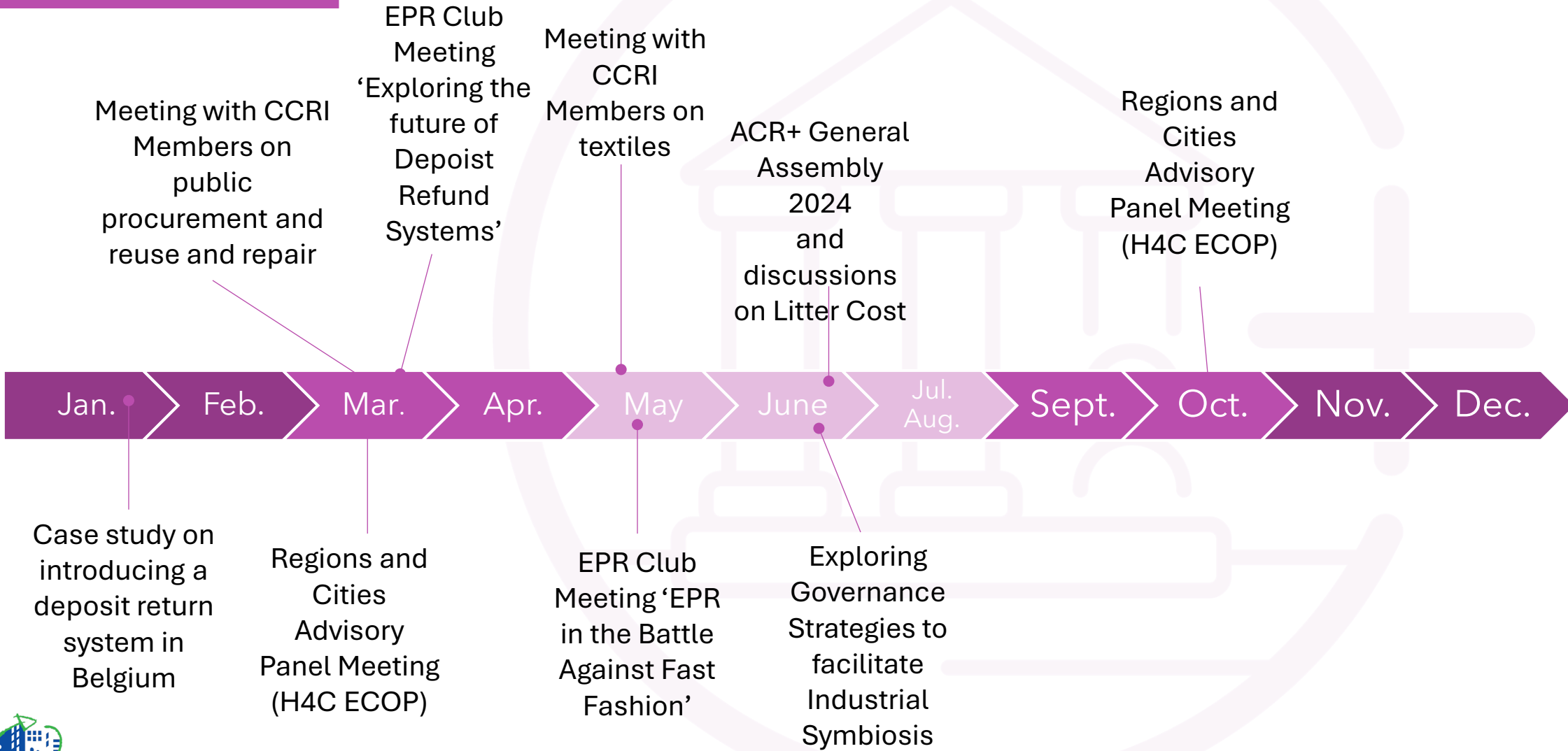
In 2024, the Policy & Governance thematic area has been contributed to ACR+'s mission of promoting sustainable practices and fostering collaboration among local and regional authorities with significant efforts dedicated to exploring governance strategies that enable industrial symbiosis, supporting local and regional authorities in addressing waste management challenges, and facilitating policy exchange through thematic working groups and advisory panels.

Key achievements include the publication of articles on starting a dialogue on governance strategies, policy analyses for high-potential industrial symbiosis regions, and the development of a community guide emphasizing the social, economic, and environmental benefits of industrial symbiosis.

Furthermore, we continued to support local and regional authorities in addressing waste management challenges, including ongoing work on a Littering Cost study to help local authorities understand the financial impact of litter.

Finally, we advanced our analysis of EPR schemes, including a report on [Deposit Return Systems \(DRS\)](#) published late 2023 and the [case study on Belgium](#), in early 2024.

OVERVIEW



HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

+ The role of local and regional authorities in encouraging industrial symbiosis

We initiated an exploration into the role of local and regional authorities in encouraging industrial symbiosis, with the first output being a short article. It examines the challenges and opportunities for local and regional governments within the EU to support private sector collaboration in resource and waste sharing as part of the circular economy. It also highlights various initiatives and policy instruments used by public authorities to facilitate industrial symbiosis.

A full report, based on this exploration, is being produced through consultation with ACR+ members and other cities and regions already involved in the [Hubs4Circularity](#) community identified best practices regarding governance strategies to accelerate industrial symbiosis. It will explore the drivers and barriers to industrial symbiosis at local and regional level. Work on the report is expected to be completed and published in 2025.



HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

+ Littering Cost Study

ACR+ is conducting a Littering Cost Study along with the Catalan Waste Agency, OVAM, and other organisations. This study seeks to answer the core question of "how much does the cleaning cost?". The work under this sub-theme will focus on supporting the local and regional authorities in finding out the answer to this question.

The study will be published in 2025.

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

+ CCRI Thematic Working Group Meetings

As part of CCRI thematic working groups, the P&G thematic area joined several in 2024 to advance knowledge-sharing and collaboration. On 27 March, a meeting on **public procurement** featured a presentation by Rijkswaterstaat, exploring strategies and best practices in this area, while another meeting on reuse and repair included valuable insights shared by Resources. Additionally, on 23 May, a meeting on textiles focused on challenges that LRAs encounter in relation to **management of textiles** in their territory. This meeting allowed ACR+ where we can focus our efforts for future activities. One of the areas of interest is **EPR schemes** with the upcoming textile collection obligation. This topic will be explored more in 2025.

UPCOMING

In 2025, the Policy and Governance thematic area has several reports and documents:

These include:

- The results from the "Exploring Governance Strategies to facilitate Industrial Symbiosis".
- Webinars will be planned to discuss the findings of the "Report on policy analysis of high-potential regions for Industrial Symbiosis" and the "Development of a Community Guide explaining the benefits of IS".
- The Litter Cost Report.

Additionally, the LIFE4EPR project has been accepted and will start in 2025. The objective of this proposal is to support policymaking through giving a clearer picture on the state of play of the EPR schemes set up across the EU.

The project will:

- Map and analyse existing EU EPR schemes to identify challenges and develop best practices.
- Assess the feasibility and effectiveness of an EU-wide harmonised EPR register of producers subject to EPR obligations.
- It is expected that the EPR club will organize activities in cooperation with the LIFE4EPR project.

To join
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