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ASSOCIATION
OF CITIES
AND REGIONS
FOR RECYCLING
AND SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

ASSOCIATION
DES CITÉS
ET RÉGIONS POUR
LE RECYCLAGE
ET LA GESTION
DURABLE
DES RESSOURCES

ASOCIACIÓN
DE CIUDADES
Y REGIONES PARA
EL RECICLAJE
Y LA GESTIÓN
SOSTENIBLE
DE LOS RECURSOS

ACR+ ACTIVITY REPORT 2010

Introduction

This report covers the period of October 2009 to September 2010.

The ACR+ activities were based on 3 main subjects:

- Optimisation of waste reduction at source (section 1)
- Optimisation of waste collection and treatment processes (section 2)
- Development and strengthening of our services to permanent members of the association (section 3)

SECTION 1

OPTIMISING WASTE REDUCTION AND PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

The priority of waste prevention has been at the heart of the ACR+ since its founding. So too has the idea become widely accepted: the best waste is that which is not produced.

As a result, a large number of ACR+ activities that promote the optimisation of waste reduction have been scheduled for 2009-2011. In fact, the recent advancements for improving the “resource – product – waste” cycle is leading to the beginning of a new domain for ACR+: consumption (and distribution) and behavioural change.



1.1. European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR)



ACR+ is assigned with developing the LIFE+ project *EWWR* that involves organising 3 editions for 2009, 2010 and 2011. The project entails a rather large undertaking given the reach throughout Europe. It is conducted in cooperation with ADEME (French Agency for the Environment) as well as some ACR+ members (in particular ARC, LIPOR, IBGE). The ACR+ assumes the role of Technical Secretariat for the EWWR, registering and validating actions implemented in Europe providing support to the organisers, communication, administration of the website) and assisting with selecting candidates for the awards of best actions for European Waste Reduction.

In early 2009, ACR+ carried out an intensive promotion campaign in order to extend the concept to all European countries and regions. As a result, 20 public bodies at both regional and national levels signed up to organise the first European Week for Waste Reduction in their area - that being: Andorra, Brussels Capital Region, Flemish Region, Walloon Region, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Catalonia, Gipuzkoa, Iles Baléares, Navarra, Valencia, Portugal, Greater Porto, Sweden, Belfast, East England Region, Scotland and Wales. In total, 2672 waste reduction actions took place during the first official edition of the EWWR in November 2009.



During the last year, for the EWWR, the following events also took place, where ACR+ participated in the:

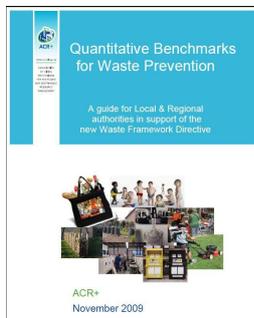
- International conference on waste reduction in Girona (Catalonia) on 24-25 November 2009.

- Awards ceremony for the 1st edition of the “European waste reduction awards” in Brussels on 15 March 2010.
- European training for waste reduction in Porto on 17-18 June 2010.

ACR+ has since made strong efforts to extend the project out to new European cities and regions in its second call for interest. With that, the 2nd edition of the EWWR now includes 30 organisers with all of the new additions: **Denmark, Finland, Germany, Malta, Slovenia, Asturias, Greater London Authority, Yorkshire and the Humber, Warrington Borough Council, Buckinghamshire, Province of Styria (AU)**. The 2nd edition of the EWWR will take place 20-28 November 2010.

More information on www.ewwr.eu

1.2. Guide and database on Quantitative Benchmarks for Waste Prevention



As exchanging best practices in waste prevention is a key objective ACR+ in November 2009 the association published a new guide (largely based on the “prevention clusters” the association elaborated on between 2007 and 2009) to supply quantitative references on the subject of waste reduction. Also thanks to ACR+ members ORDIF (FR) and AICA (IT), a French and Italian version of the guide were published in 2010 (respectively in April and July).

To this end the association is currently building a database of useful tools for local authorities that aim to implement waste reduction policies. This tool is being made exclusively for ACR+ members on the ACR+ website. The database will include case studies from a variety of ACR+ projects to contain more than 120 references

More information on www.acrplus.org/default.aspx?page=367

1.3. Sustainable consumption



Given the subject of waste reduction has been leading to more and more examination on products with an upstream view - its production, distribution and consumption, ACR+ saw a need to develop certain new expertise. As a result, the association has begun to work on activities that promote eco-products and communicating with citizens in order to promote responsible consumption.

With financial support from the Walloon Region (Belgium), ACR+ has analysed the strategies for raising awareness on sustainable consumption in the area of consumer distribution (ie: supermarkets) in Europe. This study, along with and the successive Roundtable meeting in October 2010 aims at contributing to the elaboration of the new Walloon Waste Prevention and Management Plan, currently under preparation.



Complementing this, since the beginning of 2010, ACR+ has been involved as a partner for the LIFE+ pilot project entitled “Green Commerce” being lead by the Valencia Community (ES). This project aims to mobilise the commercial sector to set

environmental objectives to reduce the waste it produces by making a series of tools available to assist. ACR+ is predominantly responsible for in assembling, summarising and disseminating the results.

More information on www.lifeplusgreencommerce.eu



1.4. Indicators and methodology for monitoring prevention

ACR+ has achieved in putting together the technical tools to help set prevention targets and monitoring methodologies. This mainly takes place in the framework of 2 important (and complementary) European projects: Miniwaste and Prewaste, in which ACR+ is a partner,

Miniwaste

The LIFE+ project entitled *Miniwaste* aims to design, implement and assess an innovative and sustainable strategic plan to *MIN*mimize municipal organic *WASTE* in EU countries. The project, piloted by Rennes-Métropole (FR) was launched in March 2010 and will last 3 years. The objective is to put together management tools for monitoring waste prevention actions at the local level. It will also rely heavily on projects that can demonstrate the prevention of organic waste.



In addition to Rennes-Métropole, the project partners are, ACR+, LIPOR (PT), BRNO (CZ), and CEMAGREF (FR).



For Miniwaste, ACR+ has already played an important role by elaborating an inventory of good practices for biowaste prevention in the form of activities and monitoring exercises. ACR+ also contributed to the creation of the website and elaborated the first issue of the Miniwaste project newsletter.

More information on the project's website www.miniwaste.eu

Prewaste

The Interreg IVC project entitled *Prewaste* is lead by the Marche Region (IT) and started end of April 2010. It is in direct connection with the work of the prevention clusters (working groups) and centred on establishing indicators and tools for the monitoring of waste prevention plans.



In addition to the Marche Region (IT), the partners are ORDIF (FR), ACR+, Roquetas de Mar (ES), Sofia (BG), IBGE, Ilfov County (RO), Karlskrona (SE), Tampere (FI) and WasteServ Malta.

The overall objective of Prewaste is to improve the effectiveness of regional/local waste prevention policies in order to significantly reduce waste production and hazardousness waste. It will do so by the close collaboration of local and regional authorities, public entities and other stakeholders.

Its sub-objectives are:

- ➔ Definition of a common methodology for regional waste prevention policies
- ➔ Exchange of good practices
- ➔ Assessment of waste prevention actions for their efficiency and monitoring capabilities
- ➔ Dissemination of knowledge

More information on www.acrplus.org/pre-waste (Project website also soon available)

1.5. Waste prevention and the fight against climate change



Waste reduction and the promotion of sustainable consumption is an important factor for policies concerning the reduction of greenhouse gases.

That is why ACR+ is a partner in the European LG Action project *Local Governments Action for Climate Change* that is running from June 2009 to June 2011). The project is financed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness & Innovation (EACI; and aims to involve local governments in the fight against climate change and emphasise the importance of the Kyoto Protocol objectives. The role of ACR+ in this project is to highlight the impact of waste management on climate change, focusing on energy-related issues.

The project partners include ICLEI (coordinator), Local Government of Denmark, Italian Local Agenda 21 Association, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (HU) and ACR+.

More information on www.lg-action.eu

1.6. Other activities related to waste prevention



The ACR+ remains a partner in the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, together with the main European towns and regions networks. In this regard, ACR+ was largely involved in the preparation and organisation of the international conference “*Delivering sustainable cities – the local leadership challenge*”, in Dunkerque, 18-21 May 2010. This included a session titled “Encouraging responsible consumption and waste reduction in urban areas”, which was facilitated by ACR+.



More information (with details on presentations) on www.acrplus.org/dunkerqueConf-2010

SECTION 2

OPTIMISING THE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT OF WASTE

A major challenge in terms of waste is reaching a “European recycling society”. In this perspective, and in particular in the context of the new Waste Framework Directive and the economic crisis, it is important to lean towards the general questions (ie: what strategy is needed for effective organisation and performance of waste treatment, selective collection, putting in place European obligations and financial mechanisms?) as well as questions concerning certain waste flows (ie: what strategy is needed to address WEEE, sludge, bulky waste, plastic wastes, medical waste, etc.).

2.1. Organisation of waste collection and recovery

The debate on the material and energy recovery of waste has become a top priority again, notably in connection with the problem of CO₂ emissions and the need to identify new energy sources.

With this, ACR+ decided to look at the impact of different collection and treatment alternatives for greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and primary material consumption.

Through a partnership with Holcim, a seminar was organised on the optimal recovery of material and energy resources in December 2009 in Turin. A first report on the subject was drawn up by the ACR+ in March 2010. Having been so successful, a second seminar was organised on 16-17 June 2010 in Seville with EGMASA and the Andalusian Government focusing on 2 specific waste flows; residual waste fraction and sewage sludge.



More information (with details of presentations) on www.acrplus.org/Seminar-Sevilla-2010

Further to this, in a partnership with Brussels Environment (IBGE), ACR+ held a Technical Workshop as a contribution to the current review of EU Thematic Strategies for

- a) Prevention and Recycling of Waste and
- b) Sustainable use of Natural Resources.

The workshop addressed the following themes:

- Are we heading to a real European recycling society
- The European Recycling Society from a market perspective
- Legal instruments to push forward recycling
- Debate: what European strategy to promote a European recycling society

More information (with details of presentations) on www.acrplus.org/technical-workshop

2.2. European observatory on municipal waste management

The collection of quantitative data concerning waste management at local and regional level in Europe has always been considered a base principal of ACR+. Different studies have already been carried out on this subject, most notably on performances and costs.



The subject is complex but the problem of quantitative recycling targets and best practices generates a renewed interest, in particular due to the new Waste Framework Directive.

As a result ACR+ seeks to develop a genuine European observatory on performances in terms of selective collection and recycling for the main municipal waste flows.

A first methodological note was elaborated by the ACR+ Secretariat with the input of the Board of Directors. It was then disseminated to the members for a first feedback. An official call will be issued to bring together cities and regions in order to work in this area on the occasion of the September 2010 conference organised with ORDIF (see 2.3). After its creation, 4 specific working groups will hold meetings in 2010 and 2011, and a publication is envisaged in 2011.

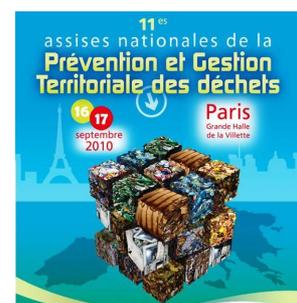
More information on www.acrplus.org/observatory

2.3. International conference on recycling targets and performance

ACR+ is holding an international conference focusing on waste and recycling targets and performances of European cities and regions. It is being co-organised with ORDIF under the framework of the French Convention for prevention and territorial management and is on 16-17 September 2010 in Paris.

The conference aims to:

- Improve available knowledge on current statistics relating to municipal waste
- List the current methods of data collection to compare experiences and international statistics of varying organisations, professional federations, and municipal actors
- Clarify the future European debate on recycling objectives and also guide the evaluation processes of the thematic strategy for recycling
- Assess the possibility and identify the main ideas for the establishment of a European Observatory as an actual project



The 2010 General Assembly of the ACR+ takes place alongside this conference.

2.4. Financing mechanisms for waste management

In 2010, ACR+ carried out research work on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, namely on specific waste flows like paper, textile and vegetable oils, on behalf of its member, the Catalan Waste Agency (ARC). The resulting reports were made available exclusively for ACR+ members in September 2010.

2.5. Management of specific waste flows

2.5.1. Waste from Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

The WEEE-PIN (Public Interest Network) working group that is chaired by Interafval and Amorce, has been continuing to closely follow all issues pertaining to the WEEE-recast. To highlight the matter ACR+ published an article in the Warner Bulletin on the EU decision making process regarding WEEE, which is exclusively sent to ACR+ Members.



2.5.2. Bio-waste

ACR+ continues to follow up on the progress of the European bio-waste policy, especially the need for bio-waste legislation. The association has given a number of presentations (ie: in Barcelona, San Sebastian) whereby issues of bio-waste prevention and legislation were addressed. ACR+ is in favor of separate bio-waste legislation and is providing regular input to the bio-waste alliance and ECN. The EC has now officially made the choice not to draft a separate directive on bio-waste even though the EP and numerous other stakeholders are in favor of such legislation. In effect, the EC is of the opinion that current legislation is sufficient to address adequately bio-waste management in the EU

2.5.3. Sewage sludge



The revision of the applicable norms in relation to sewage sludge is about to emerge on the European agenda. In addition, this issue is

closely linked to the question of how to provide bio-waste management and treatment. This new working theme was first addressed at the Seminar on Resource Efficiency in Seville (see point 2.1.).

Since the beginning of 2010, ACR+ and the City of Budapest have been preparing an international conference on sewage sludge management which will take place in Budapest on 3-5 March 2011 (under the Hungarian Presidency of the EU). A call for papers was launched in July 2010 in order to feed the programme.



More information on www.acrplus.org/Budapest-2011

SECTION 3

PERMANENT SERVICES TO ACR+ MEMBERS

3.1. Information services and networking

ACR+ strives to pursue and strengthen the constant dissemination of technical information to its members via its various services such as:

- **ACR+ Events and Working Groups** on specific topics, where ACR+ Members are partners
- **ACR+ Technical Reports** on specific topics, where ACR+ Members are partners
- **ACR+ Updates** for quarterly announcements of ACR+ activities and events
- **Warmer Bulletins** for a bi-monthly journal on sustainable waste management, featuring ACR+ editorials
- **ACR+ Newslines** for weekly e-news, that now includes targeted European content
- **ACR+ website** and in particular the “members-only” content and area which will be expanding end of 2010. The website has already undergone improvements for accessibility and new functionality.
- **ACR+ e-Meetings** for virtual gatherings (ie: the ACR+ Board of Directors meeting that took place on 28 June 2010)

The ACR+ also pursues the preparation and search for finances for setting up training programmes and new European projects, in connection with its members.

3.2. Specific support to southern cities and regions

In 2010, ACR+ continued its efforts of developing its activities in connection with cities and regions from the south and east of the Mediterranean area.

The following aims were and continue to be:

- strengthening of public authority capabilities 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 are taking place within the framework of two European projects, being:

- **GODEM (Optimised Waste Management in the Mediterranean)** piloted by the Brussels-Capital Region with several partners including Tripoli (LB), Rabat (MA), Sousse & Mahdia (TN). The project involves the creation of a composting centre & integrated complaint centre, organisation of informal collection chains, setting up a civic amenity center for recyclables and a plan of action for hotel waste and environmental management.
- **“Horizon 2020 Capacity building programme”** which is funded under the ENPI Mediterranean Environment Program (EuropeAid). The project is lead by MIO-ESDC and gathers a range of partners as key thematic experts.