



Work Programme 2021

January 2021



www.acrplus.org

2020, A YEAR TO FORGET OR A PATH FOR ACTION IN 2021?

Last year was, on many levels, a year to forget. Yet the local and global response to the pandemic offered us a glimpse of a future path for collective action to tackle climate change. Action that needs to be transformative and all-encompassing, offering hope for not just the people on the planet but the planet itself through the protection of the natural world.

We have all got used to doing things differently whether that is at home or at work and it is this adaptability and innovation that will be the hallmarks of our success in tackling the climate crisis. ACR+ is a network of organisations at the forefront of this change, supporting pioneering actions by member organisations and helping to share their experiences to others across Europe and beyond.

In this important year ahead; where we will see the nations of the world gather in Glasgow for COP26 to re-affirm again their collective commitment to reduce the amount of CO2 entering the earth's atmosphere, ACR+ will seek to increase the profile of the circular economy in reducing both demand for virgin raw materials, preventing waste and ultimately limiting the impact of climate change through reduced CO2 emissions.

But more importantly the work of ACR+ will not just be about talking about the issues and the opportunities but about showcasing the art of the possible and facilitating the uptake of practical action to engage with citizens and local communities, making them the centre of the much needed revolution to not only build back better after the pandemic but to forge the new path for transformation of our global economy and society, built on fairness and sustainability for future generations to thrive and enjoy.



Iain Gulland
President

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2021

As demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the local and international dimension of our actions and policies are increasingly intrinsically linked. This is also reflected in the circular economy, pushed forward as a solution to recover from the prevailing crisis. ACR+ did not wait for the pandemic and its consequences to emphasize the necessity that all actors at all levels cooperate to successfully transition to circular economy. In 2021 we will continue on our path, exemplifying the impact and contributions of the local level to the international context and vice-versa. Our goal is to boost the overall dynamic of transition towards the circular economy by working on the actions and strategies of local and regional authorities - constituting the base of ACR+ members - while promoting synergies with a more global level and a dialogue between the various actors.

The lessons learnt from last year's unfolding inspired us a very flexible work programme for 2021, without losing any of our ambitions. We set three priorities for this year (in addition to deliver excellent services to our members throughout the year to support them in answering challenges on their territories and developing eco-efficient solutions) that will be fed by our implications in different projects. To bring the decentralized level and our members at the foreground on the international scene, we will work on the network's visibility at the COP26, foreseen in November 2021 in Glasgow, on the land of our member and president Zero Waste Scotland.



Françoise Bonnet
Secretary General



Francesco Lembo
Managing Director

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2021

Highlight the impact of the circular economy on greenhouse gas emissions

Increase citizens' support for and participation in the economic transition

Advance in waste reduction, sustainable consumption, and production

Highlight the impact of the circular economy on greenhouse gas emissions and the contribution that decentralized authorities can make to the fight against climate change through the development of local circular economy strategies including in particular development indicators to measure this impact.

Main activities:

- o Push forward the More Circularity, Less Carbon campaign by publishing the results of the first cohort and launching two additional cohorts;
- o Development of a waste management tool for Indonesian cities within CRIC, drawing inspiration from the Carbon Metric International of the More Circularity, Less Carbon campaign;
- o Coordination of the leadership group on cities and regions of European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform.



Advance in waste reduction, sustainable consumption and production and improve the performances of municipal waste management systems, in particular by targeting the organic fraction as it constitutes the most important part of household waste and since the selective collection of bio-waste as specified under the European waste directive is soon entering into force.

Main activities:

- o Exploration of good practices identified in various projects such as HOOP, DECISIVE, SMART WASTE, etc.
- o Follow-up of EU developments on the topic with a special issue of the EU Digest;
- o Focus on EPR schemes for emerging streams;
- o Animation of a working group on bio-economy.

Increase citizens' support and participation in the economic transition - global and in a given territory - and ensure their support for the actions of local and regional authorities by strengthening education and raising awareness, in particular in terms of prevention and sustainable consumption.

Main activities:

- o Ensuring an even more successful EWWR, for its 13th edition and throughout the year;
- o Development of the CEYOU toolbox to facilitate the participation of youth organisation to environmental policies;
- o Raising awareness on the importance of decreasing the environmental impact of sport events thanks to LIFE TACKLE and GREENSPORTS HUB;
- o Supporting SMEs in their path towards more sustainability with TOURISME.



Photo by Ran Berkovich on Unsplash

SOME MILESTONES FOR 2021

EPR Club International Conference on microplastics (January)

ACR+ General Assembly (May-June)

Publication on bio-economy (February)

Launch of cohort 2 and 3 of More Circularity, Less Carbon

Publication on the impact of the COVID-19 on municipal waste systems

EWWR 2021 (November)

EWWR 2020 Awards Ceremony

Workshop during the annual conference of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (2nd semester)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

More Circularity, Less Carbon



-25% emissions linked with local resource management by 2025!

ACR+ is helping its members to assess the carbon footprint linked with material resource management, in collaboration with Zero Waste Scotland. Thanks to the Carbon Metric International, cities and regions can use their waste data to calculate not only the impact of waste management, but also the footprint linked with extraction of resources, production processes and consumption patterns of the products that became waste. This work highlights the priority fractions, but also the importance of prevention and re-use actions to mitigate local carbon footprint.

Cohort 1 (February 2020)



COMUNE DI GENOVA

✓ Assessment of local carbon impacts

Publication of results
Jan. - Feb.

Webinar on results
March-April

Local action plans
2021-2022

Cohort 2



Launch
1st sem.

Assessment of local carbon impacts

Results
2nd sem.

Cohort 3

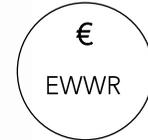
Recruitment
1st sem.

Launch
2nd sem.

The European Week for Waste Reduction



#Awareness raising and communication
#Prevention



Promoting the implementation of awareness-raising actions about sustainable resource and waste management during a single week.

Reduce, reuse, recycle!

The EWWR in 2020, it was:

10,965 actions 33 countries 38 coordinators 1 theme: invisible waste

Will the EWWR 2021 do better?

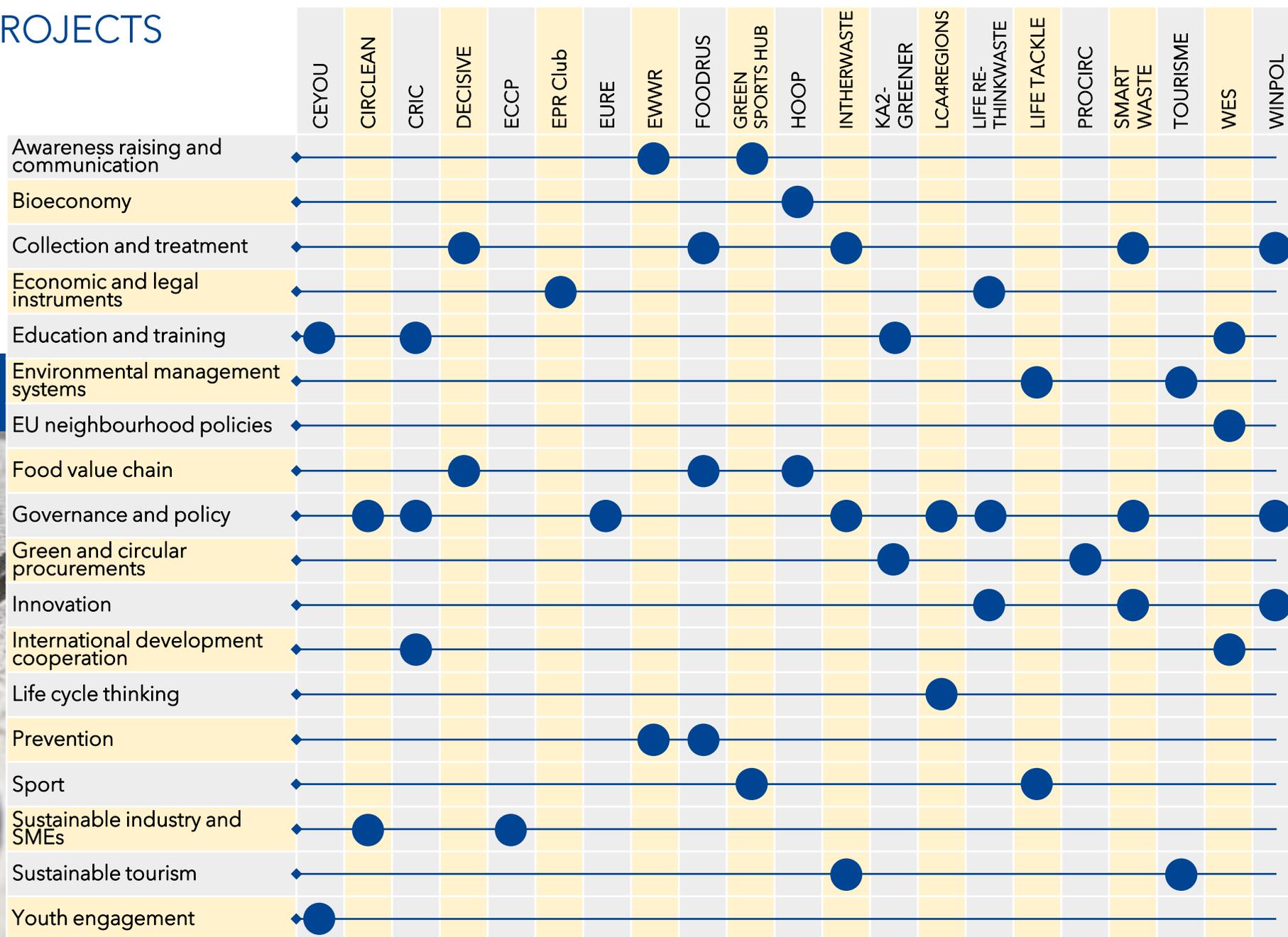
As the EWWR Secretariat, ACR+ will continue coordinating the EWWR and increase its efforts to strike partnerships with organisations and public authorities from different countries in order to promote the project and waste prevention in general.

Do not miss:

- Annual Awards Ceremony rewarding the most outstanding actions of the 12th edition: late spring;
- 13th EWWR: 20 to 28 November (opening of registrations in September).

The EWWR is always welcoming new coordinators and action developers. Join us and bring the campaign to your region!

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS



More details on www.acrplus.org/activities/acr-projects

CEYOU



"Promote, engage, connect and empower young people around the circular economy."



Education and training
Youth engagement

The second and last year of the project will see the realisation of the main project outputs: guidelines on how to build dialogue between public authorities and youth on circular economy, a training program and open educational resources for young circular economy facilitators and a mobile app to support young people in implementing their circular economy projects. Furthermore, multiplier events will take place to disseminate the results and communicate about the project.

<http://ceyou.eu>

CRIC



"Europe and Indonesia cooperating on sustainable integrated urban development, good governance and climate adaptation and mitigation."



Education and training
Governance and policy
International development cooperation

Waste management has been identified as a priority sector to enhance resilience in Indonesian cities. ACR+ will develop a waste management tool, drawing from the More Circularity, Less Carbon campaign, to support local authorities in designing strategies and implementing action plans. The activity will be carried out addressing 4 pilot cities. Circular economy, material resource efficiency, and social inclusion will be in the focus.

<https://resilient-cities.com>

Cir©Lean



"Support to a network of businesses and SMEs to seize industrial symbiosis business opportunities."



Governance and policy
Sustainable industry and SMEs

The Cir©Lean network will be officially launched in early 2021 as a concrete opportunity to unleash the potential of industrial symbiosis for European businesses. Later that year, the Cir©Lean reporting methodology and tool to support assessment, matchmaking and evidence gathering of industrial symbiosis activities, as well as the Cir©Lean Label will be released to facilitate the implementation of industrial symbiosis. ACR+ will in particular contribute to the extension of the network to public authorities.

<https://circlean-symbiosis.eu>

DECISIVE



"Make urban bio-waste management more circular with a network of decentralised biogas plant to close the loop of nutrients at local level."



Collection and treatment
Food value chain

The functioning of the demonstration site in Lyon was severely impacted by the closure of commercial activities, especially food and catering services. Some activities paused due to the COVID-19 will restart, based on previously acquired findings and achievements such as webinars and focus groups to discuss current barriers to prevent food waste and set decentralised management strategies. The second demonstration site will be completed and launched in Dolina, Italy. The outcomes of the project will be presented during its final conference by the end of the year.

www.decisive2020.eu



Photo by Art Rozetsky on Unsplash



Photo by Joshua Hoehne on Unsplash

EPR Club



"A unique multi-stakeholder platform for discussion and exchange of information and best practices on issues related to EPR in Europe."



Economic and legal instruments

General strategy for activities to be implemented and topics to be addressed in 2021 will be a subject of discussion at the 2021 Planning Meeting to be held end of January. A two-part international conference entitled "EPR as an instrument to tackle microplastic pollution?" will take place on 27 January and 24 February. Furthermore, a series of regular lunch debates on current hot topics, such as textile, will be organised during the year and an international conference will be considered for the end of the year.

www.eprclub.eu

EURE



"Exchange of experience among local authorities as a methodology to evaluate the different ways to articulate the 5% of their ERDF to support integrated sustainable urban development."



Governance and Policy

The beginning of the year will see the publication of a Joint Report on how the funds allocated by Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation are being used in partners' territories and an Opinion Report on the position of small, medium and peripheric cities on urban policies' priorities. 8 Regional reports will be finalized and presented during the year. Participation in study visits and thematic seminars will depend on the development of the COVID 19 pandemic situation. ACR+ will continue to coordinate communication activities.

www.interregeurope.eu/eure



Photo by Bas Emmen on Unsplash



Photo by Lulucmy on Unsplash

European Cluster Collaboration Platform



"More world-class clusters in Europe to foster the competitiveness, sustainability and resource-efficiency of enterprises, notably SMEs."



Sustainable Industry and SMEs

In 2021, ACR+ will take part in the new technical assistance facility that will serve to support and train ECCP clusters (and thereby cluster managers) to promote the Green Transition amongst their members. ACR+ will continue to provide support regarding the efficient inclusion of the European Resource Efficiency Knowledge Centre (EREK) within the ECCEP.

www.clustercollaboration.eu

FOODRUS



"23 technological, social, financial, ethical, educational, political, labelling, and organizational innovative solutions to overcome the specific challenges of 3 value chains: vegetables and IV range salads; meat and fish; bread."

Collection and treatment
Food value chain
Prevention

In 2021, ACR+ will set up and organise the first meeting of the FoodRUs Advisory Board, drawn from relevant organisations active /expert in the agri-food value chain, and which objective will be to provide policy recommendations for the improvement of the framework of action addressing food waste and the agri-food chain. ACR+ will also adopt the FoodRUs strategy for the replication of the project in other territories.

www.foodrus.eu

GREEN SPORTS HUB

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Erasmus+ Sport

01/2021 - 12/2023

"Growth accelerator for greener sports in Europe."

Awareness raising and communication
Sport

In parallel to the official launch of the project, the Green Sports Hub Secretariat will be set allowing the project to become a platform for itself beyond its lifetime. 2021 will mainly revolve around environmental assessments and diagnoses of environmental performances in sports and identification of hotpots and potential improvements in that field. A comprehensive toolbox and other manuals and tools will be developed by the end of the year.

Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

INTHERWASTE

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Interreg Europe

04/2016 - 03/2021

"Fostering the exchange of experience and polices for efficient and sustainable waste management in European heritage cities."



Collection and treatment
Governance an policy
Sustainable tourism

While the implementation of local action plans will be concluded, several meetings and activities scheduled for 2020 will take place in 2021. To mark the end of the project, a final conference will not only look into the journey of the 5 pilot cities but also highlight UNESCO heritage cities' efforts in bringing tourism and cultural heritage management closer to waste reduction, sustainable consumption and production.

Final conference: 4 February (online)

www.interreguerope.eu/intherwaste

HOOP

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H2020

10/2020 - 09/2024

"Investing in local initiatives to extract valuable resources from urban biowaste and wastewater in order to make innovative bio-based products."



Bioeconomy
Food value chain

Three main milestones of the project will be achieved in 2021: the creation of HOOP local committees in each of the eight lighthouse cities and regions, the creation of a Circular Investors Board to unlock investments in bioeconomy projects, and the set-up of Bio-waste Clubs gathering stakeholders around the bio-waste value chain. ACR+ will be busy recruiting follower cities and regions willing to replicate innovative solutions to turn bio-waste and wastewater into valuable resources.

www.hoopproject.eu

KA2-GREENER

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Erasmus+

12/2020 - 11/2022

"Improving the skills of procurers and administrative profiles focusing on SMEs, with regards to GPP criteria and enhancing the responsiveness of curricula of traditional profiles to the future demand of skills."



Education and training
Green and circular procurement

ACR+ will continue to coordinate the project communication activities. ACR+ will also start to develop a toolbox supporting the development of I-VET and C-VET programs to help companies successfully apply for tenders that incorporate GPP requirements. To do so, ACR+ will coordinate the gathering and engagement of stakeholders who will provide feedback on the project's content through surveys and online meetings.

LCA4Regions



Governance and policy
Life cycle thinking



"Life cycle assessment methodologies as a way to improve the effectiveness of environmental policies."

3 Transnational Learning Journeys will be organized to exchange on life cycle thinking about three project pillars: public procurement, capacity building, and monitoring that represent some of the critical areas of the regional policies. The collection of Good Practices will be in the focus, analysing the potential for replication and transfer from one region to another. The regional action plans will be also taking shape, to set the ground for the final phase of the project.

www.interregeurope.eu/lca4regions

LIFE TACKLE



Environmental management systems
Sport



"What if environmental management could be improved during football events thanks to increased awareness and improved practices of sports events key actors?"

A comprehensive publication will be published at the beginning of 2021 to summarise the different tests which took place in the 12 pilot stadiums. Otherwise, this year will mainly be dedicated to improving the environmental management within the participating Football Associations and their capacity building through trainings and webinars.

Capacity building trainings: 12 February, 2 March, 22 March, 9 April, 20 April

<http://lifetackle.eu>



Photo by Shane Rounce on Unsplash



Photo by Bence Balla-Schottner on Unsplash

LIFE Rethink WASTE



Economic and legal instruments
Governance and policy
Innovation



"A plug and play model based on PAYT and KAYT to increase separate collection, reduce residual waste, boost recovery whilst simultaneously cutting down the average household waste bill."

The development of a toolkit to guide local authorities to implement know/pay-as-you-throw systems will be in the focus. ACR+ will coordinate 6 project partners to work on thematic modules. ACR+ will also create guidelines and trainings modules to be used for coaching activities in 2022. ACR+ members will be involved to test a decision support system to simulate the impact of the RETHINKWASTE paradigm into the municipal waste plans and regulations. It will be a great chance to exchange about the integration of social innovation issues with operational services.

www.rethinkwaste.eu

PROCIRC



Green and circular procurements



"Accelerate circular economy through procurement power, alliance and capacity building."

ACR+ will keep on engaging its members to include circular criteria in their public procurement and to apply methods and tools that will facilitate the development circular procurement, in particular the ProCirc toolbox gathering in particular guidance and assessment tools. A set of specific training webinars will showcase good practices and examples that can inspire public authorities.

<https://northsearegion.eu/procirc>

SMART WASTE



Collection and treatment
Governance and policy
Innovation



“Improving public policy instruments supporting innovation within waste management procedures, both in terms of new approaches and new technologies.”

The first half of the year will see completion of the work on Policy evaluation and Policy improvements while the work on Matching good practices and failures will be continued. Work on developing of the Action Plans will begin in the second half of the year. Participation in envisaged project events will depend on the development of the COVID 19 pandemic situation. ACR+, with support and involvement of the partners, will coordinate communication activities.

www.interregeurope.eu/smartwaste



Photo by Yannis Papanastopoulos on Unsplash

WES



Education and training
EU neighborhood policies
International development cooperation



“Protecting the environment and improving the management of scarce water resources in the Mediterranean through national and regional activities taking place in eight countries of the MENA region.”

Medical waste and sustainable construction will be in the focus of two national activities addressing respectively Palestine and Tunisia. Activities should also be launched to work on the PET bottles issue in Morocco. The challenge will be to deliver on concrete actions for the beneficiaries, establishing connections between ACR+ members and the Mediterranean region.

www.wes-med.eu



Photo by Marcus Siska on Unsplash

TOURISME



Environmental management systems
Sustainable tourism



“More sustainable tourism SMEs through knowledge transfer, international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement.”

2021 will see the results of the initial literature review and the initial knowledge base. Apart from that, once the project’s website is launched, increased dissemination and communication activities will follow in order to build up a considerate outreach before launching in early autumn the call for SMEs to join the project. 62 SMEs from Cyprus, Italy, Spain and France will be selected to receive direct support from the project in terms of coaching, training and capacity building as well as financial support for improving their environmental practices.

WINPOL



Collection and treatment
Governance and policy
Innovation



“Intelligent equipment and innovative planning for better regional and local waste management processes.”

Now that the Action Plans have been published, partners will focus on implementing them. A close monitoring of the results will be carried out and ACR+ will ensure that these are visible at European levels, sharing them with other European public authorities who might take inspiration from the changes brought by WINPOL at local level.

www.interregeurope.eu/winpol



COOPERATION

ACR+ is involved in different partnerships and cooperation to represent the voice of decentralized authorities, share the experience gathered within the network, and contribute to advance towards circular economy at global and European level.

European level



ACR+ will also be active during and support the EU Green Week 2021 and the European Week of Regions and Cities. Regarding European policies, ACR+ will reply when deemed relevant to consultations launched by the European institutions.

International level



MedCités
MedCités

CLIMATE
CHANCE

ACR+, THE NETWORK

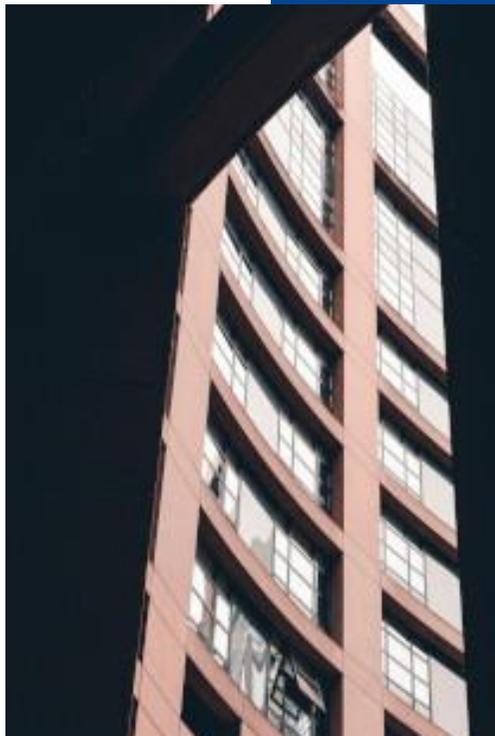


Photo by Jonathan Marchal on Unsplash

Last year, ACR+ represented 106 members gathered in 22 countries. Although a network dedicated primarily to local and regional authorities, ACR+ welcomes all stakeholders having a role to play in the transition to circular economy. From decentralised authorities and city networks to NGOs, academics, private partners and consultancies.

Different membership types – effective, partner, invited, or supportive member – are available depending on the local context and specific needs. New members can join throughout the year.

Services to members – including a weekly newsletter, a virtual library, support to events or projects, increased visibility, exchange of experiences, etc. – are part of the recurring and nonetheless essential daily activities of the network.

Inspiring circular cities and regions since 1994

www.acrplus.org



We are thankful to the ACR+ Supportive Members who, through their additional support, are making some activities of this Work Programme possible.