



ACR+

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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+ WORK PROGRAMME 2013

BRUSSELS, NOVEMBER 2012



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1. Summary of key deliverables

1.1. REPORTS 2013

2012-2013	Reports	Details
2012		
November	Observatory report – edition 2012	<i>Decentralised observatory of Municipal waste and recycling performances</i>
2013		
January	HOLCIM synthesis report	<i>The waste hierarchy and the place of co-processing for specific waste flows</i>
February	E-learning module on ISWRM (ACR+MED)	<i>The 5 dimensions of Integrated Sustainable Waste and Resource Management</i>
May	Plastic bags report	<i>Updated version (3rd edition) of the previous report giving a comprehensive overview of legal and technical initiatives for the prevention of plastic bags</i>
June	EPR report	<i>Publication based on the keynotes from the webinars</i>
October	Observatory report – 2013 edition	<i>Including the results of the workshops with federations</i>
November	Waste prevention report	<i>On one of the following three topics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a methodological guide on waste prevention practice, - a benchmark report providing quantitative data, - a report on a specific thematic (e.g. anti-advertising sticker, home/collective composting, etc.)

1.2. EVENTS 2012-2013

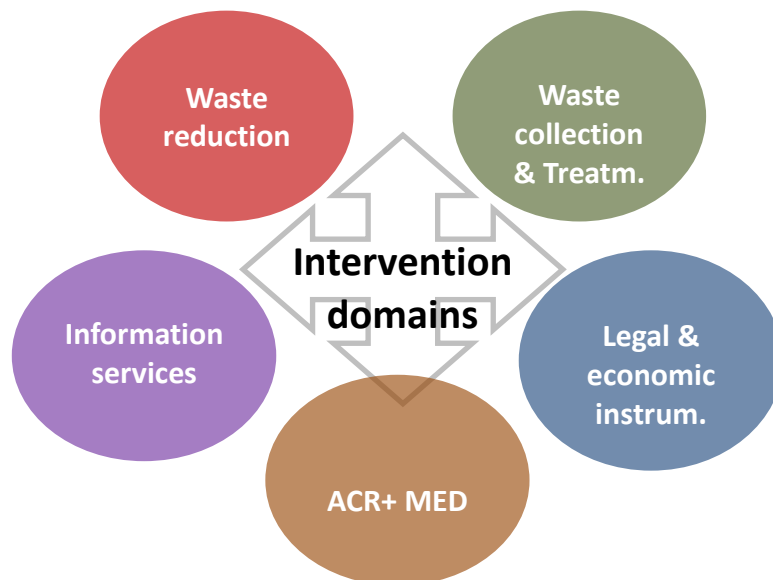
2012-2013	ACR+ organized events*	Details
2012		
November	13-14: International conference in Mahdia, Tunisia	<i>Final conference of the project – presentation of results and launch of the new ACR+MED network</i>
	20-21: Miniwaste conference in Rennes, France	<i>Final conference of the project – presentation of the key deliverables – computerized tool, protocol for compost quality assessment and good practice inventory report</i>
	17-25: 2012 Edition of the EWWR	
December	12-14: 2nd R4R Networking Event	<i>Key stakeholders to exchange views on waste management activities in Europe</i>
	19: EPR event, co-organised with Rudologia, France	<i>Competition, financial responsibility versus operational responsibilities</i>

2013		
February	EPR webinar	<i>Waste flow specific theme</i>
March	Waste prevention webinar	<i>Monitoring waste prevention actions</i>
	Thematic working Group workshop (ACR+MED), Brussels	<i>Management of priority waste flows</i>
April	EPR webinar	<i>Waste flow specific theme</i>
	17-19: ECSCCT conference, Geneva, Switzerland	<i>7th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns</i>
May	17-19: R4R conference, Odense, Denmark	<i>Regions for Recycling – regional waste management practices</i>
	29-31: Save the Planet conference, Sofia, Bulgaria	<i>South-East European Conference & Exhibition on Waste Management, Recycling & Environment</i>
June	Thematic working Group workshop (ACR+MED), Rabat, Morocco	<i>The relationship between the informal and formal waste management sector</i>
July	1-5: Summer school on waste prevention, Brussels, Belgium	<i>2 to 3 days' training on shaping waste prevention plans in terms of actions, objectives and indicators</i>
September	Waste prevention webinar	<i>Communicating on waste prevention</i>
	Thematic working Group workshop (ACR+MED), Genova, Italy	<i>Optimized resource and waste management services</i>
	2-day national waste management conference including one day on EPR, Brussels, Belgium	<i>Day 2 EPR: overview of the operations of the EPR club and key themes worked on</i>
October	R4R conference in Brussels, Belgium	<i>Focus on waste recycling optimization in Europe</i>
	Assises des déchets, Nantes, France	<i>Green capital – strategic orientations</i>
November	14-15: EWWR conference & GA, Barcelona, Spain	
	16-24: 2013 edition of EWWR	
December	Thematic working Group workshop (ACR+MED), Sousse, Tunisia	<i>The separation of waste at source</i>

*In bold = ACR+ is the organizer or co-organizer of the event

2. ACR+ key activities (2012-2013)

ACR+ activities will focus on the following topics:



2.1. WASTE AND RESOURCE PREVENTION

Waste prevention is at the top of the waste hierarchy, promoted by the Waste framework directive 2008/98 and its requirements for public authorities throughout Europe: waste prevention programmes by end 2013, fixations of quantitative or qualitative benchmarks, indicators, etc. It is also directly linked with the preservation and efficient use of material and energy resources, which is at the core of the European policy, namely concretised in the Resource Efficiency Roadmap, released in September 2011.

Based on this, ACR+ work on prevention will focus on the following items:

- **Measuring** waste prevention (potential targets, quantitative results, indicators, impact)
- **Planning** waste prevention (elaboration and implementation of waste prevention programmes)
- **Communicating** waste prevention and involving stakeholders
- **Linking** waste prevention with other policies (resource efficiency, climate change, sustainable consumption and production)
- Highlighting the place and potential for **reuse and preparing for reuse**

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES FOR MEMBERS ON WASTE PREVENTION

a) ACR+ database of waste prevention case studies: enhanced and updated content

At the beginning of 2011, ACR+ released its online database of case studies on quantitative aspects of waste prevention. This database has been made **exclusively available for ACR+ Members** in their designated area of the ACR+ website. It will be continuously updated as additional case studies become available and contributions are made and it will constitute a useful tool for the Members and inspiration to implement concrete actions for waste prevention actions while being able to assess their effectiveness.

On the basis of the expertise gathered, a report will be published in November 2013, during the European Week for Waste Reduction, with a focus on one of the three **following aspects that will be discussed and determined at the GA:**

GA:

- a methodological guide on waste prevention practice,
- a benchmark report providing quantitative data,
- a report on some specific thematic (e.g. anti-advertising sticker, home/collective composting, etc.).

More information on www.acrplus.org/Database_quantitative_benchmarks

b) ACR+ training (NEW): Helping local and regional authorities to elaborate and to implement their waste prevention programme

To respond to increasing incoming requests and based on a cumulated experience and expertise, ACR+ could propose tailor-made trainings on different municipal waste management issues. The first topic proposed could address the question of shaping waste prevention programmes or plans in terms of actions, objectives and indicators. **A first training session is proposed during the first week of July 2013, as an ACR+ summer school.** This event will only be held if a threshold of 15 interested persons is reached. A possible topic for 2014 ACR+ waste prevention training/summer school could be the implementation of economic instruments in link with waste prevention (PAYT, EPR, etc.).

c) European Week for Waste Reduction

Since 2009, ACR+ has been involved in the EWWR, which fourth edition will take place in 2012. Launched with the support of the LIFE+ programme, this activity covers a large number of tasks and is conducted in cooperation and with the support of ADEME (French Agency for the Environment) and other ACR+ Members (in particular ARC, LIPOR, IBGE). ACR+ assumes the role of technical Secretariat for the EWWR, providing support to the organisers and project developers, ensuring the promotion and communication and organizing the European competition for EWWR Awards for the best actions related to waste prevention awareness-raising.

In 2011, 34 public authorities and the European Secretariat were coordinating the EWWR and **7035 actions** were implemented in **32 countries** during the Week.

The challenge is now to continue the expansion in 2012 and 2013 and to ensure a continuation of the concept of EWWR which has proved successful and is acclaimed by the European Commission.

A new project proposal has been submitted to the European Commission with a renewed concept of EWWR including new themes (based on the first three levels of the WFD waste hierarchy), new actions (including a European Clean Up Day and Waste Prevention Thematic days, e.g. reuse in 2013 and food waste prevention in 2014), new tools for specific targets, etc.

Upcoming milestones:

- 17 to 25 November 2012: Edition 2012 of the EWWR
- 16 to 24 November 2013: Edition 2013 of the EWWR

More information on www.ewwr.eu

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d) Pre-waste Project (2010-2012, Interreg IVC)

The Interreg IVC project Prewaste gathers 10 partners and is led by the Marche Region (IT). It aims to improve regional/local waste prevention policies effectiveness by:

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

The Pre-waste final conference will present the project's results, in particular the Pre-waste Monitoring Webtool, waste prevention good practices and a methodology for transferring good practices at local or regional level, as a side event of the ACR+ General Assembly, on 7-8 November 2012 (ACR+ European Waste and Resource Days).

More information on: www.prewaste.eu

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e) Miniwaste Project (2010-2012, Life+)

The Miniwaste Life+ project aims to design, implement and assess an innovative and sustainable strategic plan to Minimise municipal organic WASTE in EU countries. It takes place between 2010 and 2012 and is led by Rennes-Métropole (France) with 4 other partners including ACR+.

- The Miniwaste Final Conference for bio-waste prevention will take place on 20-21 November 2012 in Rennes. This conference will present the project's results in particular the computerized tool to prepare and monitor waste prevention policies and actions, bio-waste prevention good practices and Miniwaste protocols on quantitative and qualitative assessment of the compost.

More information on: www.miniwaste.eu

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f) Additional ACR+ initiatives on waste prevention

- Waste prevention webinars
- Waste prevention session, South-East European Waste Conference "Save the Planet", Sofia, end of May 2013. ACR+ is a supporting partner of this event in charge of organizing a session on waste prevention with examples from its members. **Interested ACR+ members are invited to contact the ACR+ secretariat.** See www.acrplus.org/waste_conference_sofia2012
- Plastic Bags Report: cf. ACR+MED Thematic Working group on priority waste flows
- ACR+ will consider the possibility to submit/participate in a proposal of European project (e.g. LIFE+), to be submitted in 2013, on the evaluation of waste prevention plans under the angles of quantitative objectives at local/regional level, reuse activities and initiatives involving NGOs. (To develop with interested ACR+ members and partners such as EEB, REUSE, ADEME)
- Considering that 2014 will be the European year on fight against food waste, ACR+ will be involved in specific activities related to this issue, possibly conferences linked with European projects (e.g. Green Cook - Interreg, Sustainable food for urban communities - Urbact, etc.).
- Food waste: **Subject to the interest of ACR+ and ACR+MED members a working group on litter prevention could be set up.**

WASTE RECYCLING AND RESOURCE RECOVERY

The European regulation for recycling is in constant evolution the last years. It sets mandatory targets with the objective of increasing municipal waste recycling performances, ACR+ will continue its work to analyse, compare and promote the best practices concerning waste selective collection, treatment alternatives, financial schemes, etc., namely by:

- Analysing the progress made towards a **European Recycling Society**
- Improving the data collection and publishing an EU regional/ local **benchmark**
- Contributing to the debate concerning the revision of the **EU targets** in 2014
- Improving ACR+ members' expertise regarding collection and treatment alternatives, with a specific focus on some waste flows. **To be discussed and determined at the ACR+ GA.**
- Being the Communication lead partner in the INTERREG IVC "R4R" (Regions for Recycling) project, which aims at promoting regional contributions to the European Recycling Society, by allowing local and regional authorities to identify transferable good practices related to local instruments to improve recycling performances. ACR+ is in charge of the Communication and Dissemination of the project, which is led by the Observatoire Régional des Déchets de l'Île de France –ORDIF (FR).

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES FOR MEMBERS ON WASTE RECYCLING AND RESOURCE RECOVERY

a) ACR+ European Observatory of 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 and good waste management practices and techniques, are at the core 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.**

As a result, since end 2010, ACR+ has developed a Decentralised Observatory of municipal waste performances in Europe. Three specific working groups have been created with the participation of **24 cities and regions** among ACR+ members. The **next steps** for the work of the Observatory are:

- 7-8 November 2012: Release and dissemination of 1st Observatory Report.
- 2013: 2nd phase of the Observatory - Observatory members and material federations will focus on specific waste flows (i.e. glass, paper, plastic etc.) to examine their trend and optimise their collection.

More details about this project: www.acrplus.org/observatory

b) Implementing the waste hierarchy at local level

In partnership with Holcim Corporate, ACR+ will publish a **guidance document** concerning the implementation of the waste hierarchy and the place of co-processing for specific waste flows. A training workshop will also be organised in 2013, most probably in Morocco.

c) Recycling and downcycling

ACR+ could also organize a debate at the European Parliament level on downcycling and recycling (cf FEVE proposal)

2.3. ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

Economic instruments are powerful tools to encourage more sustainable behaviour by private and public sectors as well as from 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 to achieve 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?

The main focus for ACR+ work on economic instruments in 2013 will be:

- Highlighting the **role of economic instruments** in the implementation of waste management policies in support of the waste hierarchy
- **Analysing the situation in Europe** regarding the use of economic instruments such as taxes, EPR schemes, PAYT systems, deposit schemes, etc.

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES FOR MEMBERS ON ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

a) European EPR Club (NEW)

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...).

Since the launch of the ACR+ EPR Club in June 2012, the EPR Club has been attracting different stakeholders (public authorities at all levels, EPR schemes, waste management companies, material federations, NGOs) to allow a dialogue on EU policy developments and technical implementation of EPR schemes throughout Europe. The EPR Club is mainly a web-based interactive focal point with a private members area, virtual library and regular webinars. The following activities will be implemented in 2013:

- Regular webinars on different EPR schemes for specific waste flows: Packaging, WEEE, Batteries etc.
- June 2013: Publication based on the keynotes from the webinars
- September 2013: EPR Club Annual Conference

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b) Economic instruments in relation to the waste hierarchy

ACR+ could also organise a workshop with the help of Members on the mix of economic instruments to optimize the waste hierarchy implementation.

2.4.

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT (ACR+ MED)

In 2013, ACR+ will try to concretize its efforts of developing an **ACR+ MED network** with cities and regions from the south and east of the Mediterranean area, with the objectives of:

- **Enhance capacities of public authorities** with regard to waste management and sustainable life styles
- **Build dynamic** north-south and south-south **partnerships** amongst ACR+(MED) members
- Exchanging information and expertise concerning **solutions** adapted to local technical, legal and financial contexts
- Promoting the **ISWRM (Integrated Sustainable Waste & Resource Management) strategy**.

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGY OF INTEGRATION OR COLLABORATION WITH THE NETWORK ACTIVITIES ACR+ MED

a) GODEM project

ACR+ is a partner in the GODEM project (Optimised Waste Management in the Mediterranean) which is funded in the frame of the EU program CIUDAD, and is led by the Brussels-Capital Region. It involves some pilot projects like the creation of a composting centre & integrated waste management complaint centre, the organization of informal collection chains, the setting up of a civic amenity center for recyclables and a plan of action for hotel waste management. In addition, GODEM aims at launching the base for the creation of a permanent network of local authorities on waste management in the Med Area. The project ends in November 2012.

The final event for GODEM is:

- 13 – 14 November 2012: Final International Conference in Mahdia (Tunisia) including the launch of the ACR+MED network

More details about this project: www.acrplus.org/godem

b) Horizon 2020 project (NEW - extension)

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. The project has been extended for a period of two years (2013-2014). As in the first stage of the project a range of **capacity building training sessions** and study visits will be carried out under the responsibility of ACR+. **Interested ACR+ Members are welcome to be involved as experts**, under specific funding conditions.

The new programme including upcoming trainings has not been defined yet.

ACR+ has been asked, throughout its experience of the last years regarding training local and regional authorities in the field of Integrated Sustainable Waste and Resource Management (ISWRM), to elaborate an e-learning tool on ISWRM. The tool is under development and will be available in the beginning of 2013.

More details about this project: www.acrplus.org/horizon2020

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c) ACR+ MED network (NEW)

The **ACR+ MED network** will be officially launched at the final GODEM conference in Tunisia (13 to 14 November 2012). All interested members of ACR+ will constitute the “ACR+MED” network. Membership modalities, including membership fees will be discussed at the ACR+ GA 2012.

The 2013 proposed work programme should mainly rely on the work undertaken by the 4 Thematic Working Groups (TWG) initiated within the ACR+MED network. These TWGs should bring in required knowledge, institutional, financing and policy related inputs to respond to the needs of the LRAs.

The ACR+MED TWGs proposed include, but are not limited to, the following:

- TWG 1 : Optimized resource and waste management services
- TWG 2: Management of priority waste flows (biowaste, WEEE, plastics)
- TWG 3: The separation of waste at source
- TWG 4: The relationship between the informal and formal waste management sector

The proposed tasks schedule for 2013 is the following:

- Establish a specific programme of activities and associated functioning and funding for ACR+ MED network at the international conference in Mahdia including the organisation of four **TWG workshops** spread over 2013 as follows:
 - March: TWG 2
 - June: TWG 4
 - September: TWG 1
 - December : TWG 3
- The ACR+MED will run a dedicated website (www.acrplusmed.org) and will publish, amongst other, a newslines (bi-monthly), city profiles, technical and funding fact sheets all kind, technical and educational reports/ documents, etc.

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ACR+ keeps 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 acts as stakeholder with European institutions aiming to make concerns and specificities of local authorities well heard.

In this respect, ACR+ pursues 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
- **ACR+ Newslines** for weekly e-news; in 2013 the Newline will be re-designed and a special emphasis will be put on improving the lay-out and readability of this service.
- ACR+ **website** and in particular the “members-only” content and area which will be expanded in 2013 with the constant update of the waste prevention database and the virtual library
- **ACR+ Updates**, quarterly announcements of ACR+ activities and events
- **ACR+ e-mailing campaigns**, regularly delivering the latest news of ACR+ activities, will be re-designed, according to the ACR+ visual identity
- Exclusive documentation centre (**ACR+ virtual library**) offering ACR+ Members permanent access to a selection of reports, articles and statistics. In 2013, the virtual library will expand, providing Members with a thematic online resource centre. Visit www.acrplus.org/virtual_library
- Bi-monthly **Webinars**, allowing Members to participate in online seminars given by external or internal experts on selected topics
- Use of social networks to facilitate communication with/among members, as well as to promote ACR+ activities among larger public
- In 2013, ACR+ will recruit new members through targeted e-mailing campaigns, as well as personalised e-mails and phone calls.

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