



ACR+ Thematic Working Groups (TWG)

« Management of priority waste flows »

Responsible: Barbara Dewulf, Brussels Environment

Work programme 2013/2014

Context

The Thematic Working Group (TWG) on “Priority Waste Flows” is the only TWG since the creation of the four Groups in late November 2012 to have organized specific activities in 2013. The Group is coordinated by Brussels Environment (Ms. Barbara Dewulf).

The scope of “priority waste flows” is wide and it aims not only at identifying priority flows, but also at sharing experiences and good practices among local and regional authorities. These issues are discussed in more details in the Terms of Reference of the TWG.

The topic chosen in 2013, plastic bags, is a subject of great interest. The TWG has written (and updated) the inventory of policy instruments for plastic bags, as well as gathered, during a workshop, about fifteen experts from various Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, which allowed for an exchange of experiences on this subject. The theme of plastic bags remains relevant in 2013/2014 for the TWG but will be expanded to address the issue of littering.

The ACR+ Secretariat continue to play an important role in the monitoring of the TWG, as well as drafting and disseminating its outputs. Given the universal nature of the priority waste flows issue, the activities of the TWG are open to all ACR+ members (EU28 + MED 16 countries, constituting the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)).

Execution of the 2013 work programme (plastic bags)

1. ACR+ held a workshop featuring fifteen experts on plastic bags issue, with a special emphasis on awareness-raising campaigns / clean-up campaigns”, as well as templates (legislation / voluntary agreements, etc.) for the implementation of initiatives to reduce the amount of plastic bags;
2. In June 2013, ACR+ published a report on plastic bags, entitled “Plastic Bags Inventory of Political Instruments”;
3. ACR+ published some of the templates (legislation, voluntary agreements) on its website;
4. In June 2013, ACR+ published its response to the public consultation on the “Green Paper on Plastic Waste”;
5. ACR+ and Brussels Environment will continue to seek opportunities to enhance the “Plastic Bags Inventory of Political Instruments” report.



Priority theme and actions to be undertaken in 2014

Follow-up of the 2013 programme (plastic bags)

1. Regular updating of the report entitled "Plastic Bags Inventory of Political Instruments" and particularly of the "country by country inventory";
2. On the ACR+ website, ACR+ members will continue to share information on public information campaigns, life-cycle studies and other relevant information on the topic of plastic bags;
3. ACR+ will closely monitor the funding opportunities (e.g. EU non-state actors, CIUDAD bis, etc.), in order to introduce a proposal on the development of a roadmap and a toolkit for local and regional authorities.

Proposed work programme 2014

The TWG on "priority waste flows" is committed to continuing in the steps taken in plastic bags thematic, but plans to expand the theme to the issue of littering with particular emphasis on "plastic waste" and "marine waste". The proposed actions and deliverables are:

1. The leader of the TWG, with the help of the ACR+, will write a Concept Note of 4 pages max. on the issue of "litter management";
2. A survey will be conducted among ACR+ members to better understand the thematic by city / region and / or country;
3. Research (creation of a virtual library on the topic);
4. Creation of a guide or toolkit (25 - 30 pages) on the topic of littering;
5. Research of case studies and the possibilities of applying Extended Producer Responsibility in financing projects in the field of litter management;
6. In 2014, a workshop on the issue of littering will be organised, if funding can be found (from projects, members, other organisations, etc.).