



ASSOCIATION
OF CITIES
AND REGIONS
FOR RECYCLING
AND SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

ACR+ Update

Spring 2011

EDITO

The cycle resources-products-waste is more than ever at the heart of EU policy developments in 2011. This integrated approach has served as a basis for ACR+'s work for several years now and the review of our activities in the present edition of the ACR+ Update shows that these are not only words!

Prevention is the first pillar of our activities. The European Recycling Society is the second key goal for the ACR+ network.

In both cases, ACR+ defends a key role for the local and regional authorities, with clear targets and the involvement of all stakeholders. Capacity building, technical training and cooperation complete the picture, with a particular attention to the South Mediterranean cities in an evolving period.

This is what we invite you to discover in this issue of ACR+ Update and we will be happy to meet you at one of our upcoming events!

Jean Pierre-Hannequart
President

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→ Upcoming Events

European Seminar Green Commerce, 25 May 2011, Brussels

ACR+, together with the Green Commerce Partners, is hosting the European Information Seminar about the Life+ Green Commerce project.

This exclusive event will present the first outcomes of the Green Commerce project, which aims to green the activities of small shops in Europe. The newly-created GC self-assessment tool and the technical requirements for the GC European label will be officially presented for the first time, together with the pilot experiences from participating cities (San Sebastián and Torrevieja).

The event will take place on 25 May 2011, from 9:00 to 14:00 at ACR+ offices c/o Brussels-Europe Liaison Office, avenue d'Auderghem, 63 at 1040 Brussels.

You can register for this free event by filling out the [registration form](#) and sending it by fax (+ 32 2 234 65 01) or e-mail (info@acrplus.org) before May 15th 2011.

For further information please visit [ACR+ website](#) or view the [agenda](#).



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ACR+ participates in the 11th edition of Green Week

We are happy to announce that ACR+ will participate in this year's edition of the Green Week conference, presenting our current projects.

Green Week is the biggest annual conference on European environment policy, held from 24 to 27 May 2011 in Brussels, Belgium. On 25 May, the president of ACR+, Jean-Pierre Hannequart, will take part in an interactive session, looking at different policy instruments available to national and European policy makers to boost recycling in Europe ("No tipping please: getting to the recycling society").

Throughout the conference, you will be able to visit our stand in the Charlemagne building, rue de la Loi 170, Brussels. This edition of Green Week will take place in Brussels and around Europe. Its theme is Resource Efficiency - Using less, Living better.

The conference is accompanied by several side events and an exhibition area with 50 stands about green business solutions, NGO activities, authorities, European and international bodies and more.

For further information please visit [ACR+ website](#).



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Sustainable management of sewage sludge and bio-waste, 16-17 June 2011, Valencia, Spain

This conference is co-organised by ACR+, the Generalitat Valenciana (Regional Government of Valencia) and the Instituto para la Sostenibilidad de los Recursos (ISR). Its purpose is to contribute ideas to the elaboration of the new European sludge management strategy.

The topics to be discussed include: experiences from big cities in Europe and the comparison of the applied treatment methods, priority for review and evaluation through the economical and operational aspects of sewage sludge management, the costs of operation and the optimisation of the material and energy recovery, as well as the benefits of sewage sludge management in combination with the management of the organic fraction of municipal solid waste.

Key speakers include Bartosz Zambrzycki (EC), Jean-Pierre Hannequart (ACR+), Ann Braekevelt (OVAM, BE), Dr Michael Oberdorfer (North Rhine-Westphalia State Environment Agency, DE)

For further information please visit [ACR+ website](#).

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Horizon 2020 Capacity Building / Mediterranean Environment Programme trainings, May – June 2011

The "Horizon 2020 Initiative" aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban wastewater and industrial pollution.

These capacity-building activities are targeted to country officials (Ministries, Agencies and/or regional/ local authorities), and others involved in finding solutions to an integrated sustainable management of municipal solid waste in their country, region or local authority.

The will cover the following topics:

1. "Integrated Sustainable Waste Management – based on accumulated regional experience", 11 - 12 May 2011, Cyprus
2. "Study visit on ISWM with focus on integrated systems including WtE & anaerobic digestion", 23 -25 May 2011, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
3. "Management of Electronic Waste", 20 – 22 June 2011, Brussels, Belgium

For further information please visit [ACR+ website](#).



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The Interpretation of Life Cycle Thinking in the Waste Management Hierarchy, 5-6 July 2011, Brussels, Belgium

As part of the ACR+ International seminar "The Interpretation of Life Cycle Thinking in the Waste Management Hierarchy", organised with the support of HOLCIM Group Ltd, we launch a call for contributions on the following subject of "Life Cycle Assessment of your waste management systems" for the upcoming ACR+ event.

We are looking for specific examples of interpretation of the EU waste hierarchy through Life Cycle Thinking, as foreseen in article 14, 2 of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98. May you be successful, we will invite you to present your case study and participate in a lively debate with the key panelists.

The primary objective of this session will be to provide an assessment of the environmental impacts associated with existing solid waste management policies in your Region.

Please send us a brief description of the case you would like to present no later than Friday, 13th May 2011. Depending on the number of proposals received, a selection process will take place.

For further information please visit [ACR+ website](#) or view the [draft Programme](#).

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Experts conference within the Miniwaste project, 13 September 2011, Brno, Czech Republic

In the framework of the Miniwaste project, with the support of the Life+ programme of the EC, the city of Brno (Czech Republic) will host an experts conference to share the progress of this project with bio-waste experts. This conference will in particular address the issue of bio-waste management in Czech Republic and in Europe. It will also give the opportunity to present the state of play regarding the monitoring and assessment of bio-waste prevention and some good practices in relations with composting and green and food waste prevention.

For further information on the programme and speakers, please visit the [Miniwaste website](#).



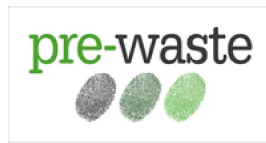
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Experts training seminar on waste prevention within the Pre-waste project, 13 October 2011, Bucharest, Romania

In the framework of the INTERREG IV C Pre-waste project, an experts' training seminar on waste prevention

will be organised by SPCII Ilfov, the Romanian Pre-waste partner, in Bucharest on 13 October 2011. This training seminar will address the transferability of waste prevention good practices and the development of waste prevention plans.

Further information will soon be available on the [Pre-waste website](#).



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ACR+ General Assembly and "The implementation of the Waste Framework Directive at local and regional level" Conference, 26-27 October 2011, Genoa, Italy

Save the date!

The ACR+ General Assembly in 2011 will be devoted to the implementation of the Framework Directive at the local and regional level in Europe. An international conference will be organised together with the City of Genoa (Italy), on 26 - 27 October 2011. Based on the contributions from ACR+ members, the conference programme will address the great challenges of the implementation process: new developments at the European level, prevention programmes, meeting the recycling targets and addressing the issue of bio-waste.

Save the date now, more details will follow on [ACR+ website](#).



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→ Recent Events

The EWWR Awards Ceremony in Brussels, Belgium

The awards ceremony for the 2010 European Week for Waste Reduction took place on Monday March 28, 2011 in Brussels before roughly 200 attendees, including the Brussels-Capital Region Minister for the Environment Evelyne Huytebroeck and several representatives of the European Commission and the LIFE+ Programme.

From 20 – 28 November 2010, 4,346 EWWR actions took place in 24 countries throughout Europe and beyond with the common aim to promote waste reduction. Out of these, 90 were pre-selected by the various organisers and submitted to an independent jury of European waste management specialists.

Six awards were handed out to the most outstanding actions: one for each of the five [Project Developer categories](#) plus the Jury's Favourite Award.

To view the complete list of winners, [click here](#).

For further information please visit the [EWWR Awards webpage](#).



REDUCTION

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Waste prevention workshop in Brussels, Belgium

Within the framework of the Pre-waste project, whose aim is to help cities and regions to improve their waste prevention policies, on 28 March 2011 Brussels Environment (IBGE) organized an international workshop, gathering waste prevention experts from across Europe.

During this event, the 10 Pre-waste partners and about 130 waste prevention stakeholders were able to share opinions about key issues regarding waste prevention at local and regional level. They also discussed some of the 50 good practices chosen within the project amongst the 100 case studies on waste prevention assembled by the project partners.

This one-day event covered such subjects as the EU context of local and regional waste prevention planning, the use of indicators, as well as regulatory and economic waste prevention instruments. It included parallel sessions where participants could go more deeply into the matter regarding food wastage, packaging, rental/repair/reuse and sustainable consumption, production and lifestyles.

During the workshop, a poster session was organized, so that the participants could ask Pre-waste partners for more information on the selection of good practices and waste prevention strategies in Europe, exhibited in a poster format. These good practices covered in particular repair and reuse centres, taxation and awareness raising on plastic bags, dematerialisation in offices, reusable diapers, food waste avoidance and home composting.

The presentations and other documents related to the conference can be downloaded from [this webpage](#).

For further information please visit [ACR+ website](#).



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1st Technical Working Group, following the launch of ACR+ European Decentralized Observatory on Municipal Waste Recycling Performances

Following the launch of the ACR+ European Decentralised Observatory of Municipal Waste Recycling Performances [in September 2010 in Paris](#), ACR+ invited its members to the 1st Working Group meeting on 1st February 2011 in Brussels.

During the meeting the following topics were discussed:

- Objectives and methodology for the Observatory programme
- Deliverables for 2011/12
- Structure and functioning of the working groups and assignment of Co-leaders
- Waste Data Matrix
- Involvement of key organisations for participation
- Communication channels for the Observatory
- Funding opportunities
- Next steps and planning for the next working group meetin

25 Regional / Local Authorities participate in the Observatory working Group from across Europe.

For further information and to view the agenda, presentations and conclusions from the day please visit [ACR+ website](#).

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→ Publications

A new online database: “Quantitative Benchmarks for Municipal Waste Prevention - A database for Local & Regional Authorities in support of the new Waste Framework Directive”

The Waste Framework Directive from December 2008 (2008/98) stipulates a clear obligation to give priority for waste prevention above all other waste management practices (art. 4). It also imposes on Member States to determine appropriate and specific qualitative or quantitative benchmarks for waste prevention in their waste prevention programs to be elaborated by December 2013 (art. 29).

Generation of municipal waste currently estimated at about 513 kg/inh/y (EU 27) will continue to increase across the EU if public authorities do not react strongly and positively. One of the biggest challenges for waste prevention is to quantify its impact. For this reason ACR+ decided to develop this database.

It consists of 37 detailed quantitative waste prevention examples that demonstrate the potential waste reductions achievable at both regional and local level. The waste prevention examples cover 5 main different waste streams: bio-waste, packaging waste, paper waste, bulky waste and municipal waste. Each case study features a short description, as well as detailed data concerning general information (such as country, region, population or waste generated per year), as well as waste prevention activity, including data on the project's scale, participation and waste reduction targets, participation rate, waste quantities reduced and budget.

The database will be updated on a regular basis as well as extended in order to incorporate more cases and more quantified data on targets and results indicators.

The database is specifically developed and only accessible for ACR+ members. **You can access it from [ACR+ website](#)** (members only).

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Inventory of knowledge on good practices regarding bio-waste prevention in Europe

Within the framework of the Miniwaste project, ACR+ was responsible for developing an inventory of knowledge – and therefore for identifying and describing good practices regarding bio-waste prevention in Europe which could be implemented by local and regional authorities. The final report comprises ten factsheets and a number of annexes.

The ten factsheets are:

- Home composting - Italy (Piemonte)
- Home composting - UK (Kent)
- Home composting - Portugal (Lipor)
- Home composting - France (Chambery)
- Community composting - Belgium (Flemish Region)
- Community composting - Switzerland (Zürich)
- Farm proximity composting - Austria (Freistadt)
- Fight against food waste - UK (WRAP)
- Closed Loop gardening - Belgium (Flemish Region)
- Reuse centers - Belgium (Flemish Region)

For each of these, ACR+ provided detailed information regarding the general characteristics of the responsible body, local context, applied strategy (objectives, approach and methodology), relevant instruments, stakeholders, the means and actions (including communications), legislative and financial aspects, results, indicators and monitoring tools (if any), as well as the challenges encountered and success factors applied.

To download the inventory [click here](#).

For further information on the Miniwaste project, visit its [website](#).

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A study on consumer communication strategies promoting sustainable products

ACR+ finalized, on behalf of the Walloon region (Belgium), a study on consumer communication strategies promoting sustainable products initiated by retailers and public authorities in Europe. The study is based on a detailed inventory of good practices in selected countries in Europe.

The final report (in French only) includes a comprehensive study of best practices for 5 retailers (COOP, MIGROS, CASINO, TESCO and M&S) and 5 public authorities in selected countries (UK, France, Belgium (Flanders), Sweden and Germany) identifying strategies and communication / outreach actions as well as collaborative arrangements put in place between public authorities and retailers.

The full report includes, apart from an overview of best practices, a list of 32 concrete actions classified according to the "4E" principle (enable, engage, encourage and exemplify). The full report has been presented at the [Round Table](#) that took place in Namur (capital of Walloon Region), on 15 October 15 2010.

To download the report in French [click here](#).

You can also download its summary in [English](#) or in [French](#).

To download the PowerPoint presentation [click here](#).

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Green Commerce European Blog

Within the framework of the Green Commerce project, in January 2011 ACR+ launched the Green Commerce European Blog. It is a frequently updated resource of news and articles related to the reduction of the environmental impact of retail businesses in Europe. Moreover, this European Blog aims to keep all the interested parties up-to-date in relation to the Green Commerce Life+ project initiatives.

If you have any interesting experience or know of relevant news or good practices concerning environmental initiatives of the small retail sector, do not hesitate to share it on the GC Blog. The GC Blog is also a place for discussion and debate, so bookmark us and post regularly your comment!

To visit the blog now [click here](#).



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WELCOME!

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new Members:

- [AMSA](#) (Italy),
- [Semardel](#) (France),
- [Cultural Committee Skiathos](#) (Greece),
- [Municipality of Zagreb](#) (Croatia) and
- [Diputación de Castellón](#) (Spain).

Thank you for joining ACR+, we are proud to have you on board!

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