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ASSOCIATION  
OF CITIES  
AND REGIONS  
FOR RECYCLING  
AND SUSTAINABLE  
RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

# ACR+ Update

Winter 2011-2012

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## EDITO

Local and regional waste strategies are key for a resource-efficient Europe.

With its recent **Roadmap**, the European Union is actively promoting “resource efficiency” as a major policy concept to reach ambitious environmental and economic objectives for 2050.

Being close to the citizen-consumers, linked with local producers and retailers, directly dealing with waste and resources policies, local and regional governments play a key role in the practical implementation of the concept.

Sticking with the founding motto of networking and exchange, the latest ACR+ activities highlight numerous innovative and inspiring examples of local resource-efficient practices and tools: massive campaigns against food waste, local alternative currencies, on-site composting in collective housing, innovative selective collection schemes, powerful economic instruments, trainings for increased public expertise, etc...

ACR+ wishes you festive (and waste-free) Christmas holidays and a resourceful 2012!

*Jean-Pierre Hannequart, President  
Olivier De Clercq, Secretary General*

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# Upcoming Events

## European Mediterranean countries mobilise for an optimised waste management. GODEM Third Regional Conference, 24-25 January 2012, Sousse Tunisia

ACR+ is organising, in conjunction with the [city of Sousse](#), the [ANGED](#), and [Bruxelles Environnement](#), a seminar in Sousse, Tunisia, from 24-25 January 2012.

### Which themes will be dealt with during the seminar?

This seminar will provide the opportunity for experts from both sides of the Mediterranean to exchange their knowledge, and to capitalise on the chance to learn about **good practices** during the plenary and working group sessions. The presentations and debates will focus on the following themes:

- Adequate **collection** systems: the choice of adequate collection systems
- **Awareness-raising**: getting the citizens to engage
- **Sanctions**: putting a coercive system in place

### For whom is the seminar intended?

This seminar is open to anyone involved in urban waste management; political decision-makers, urban waste management technicians in Tunisia, academics, the private sector in charge of waste collection, consultants, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

The seminar **programme** and the **registration** information will follow soon.

For more information on the GODEM project, please visit <http://www.acrplus.org/godem>

To get more information on the conference, please visit our [www.acrplus.org/sousse2012](http://www.acrplus.org/sousse2012)

*With the financial support of the European Union.*

**GODEM**

Gestion Optimisée des Déchets en Méditerranée  
Optimised Waste Management in the Mediterranean

## ACR+ European Observatory for Municipal Waste Recycling Performances Workshop, Odense, Denmark, April 2012

Following the presentation of the Observatory work progress in the ACR+ International Conference in Genoa last October, ACR+ in partnership with Odense Waste Management will be hosting the 2nd European Observatory technical event.

The aim of the event is to present the 1st Observatory working report on waste and recycling statistical data, discuss the current structure, next steps and new strategic orientation of the Observatory.

To learn more about the ACR+ European Observatory for Municipal Waste Recycling Performances, visit <http://www.acrplus.org/observatory>.



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## International Conference "Save the Planet" Waste Management and Recycling, 28-30 March 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria

ACR+ is one of the main partners in the organization of the edition 2012 of the International Conference "**Save the Planet**" **Waste Management & Recycling** to be held in Sofia. This conference covers all key topics related to waste management and is one of the major events in South-East Europe, combining conference and exhibition.

ACR+ will organize a specific session on **waste prevention** on 30th March 2012.

More information on the conference is available at [http://www.acrplus.org/Waste\\_Conference\\_Sofia2012](http://www.acrplus.org/Waste_Conference_Sofia2012)

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## European Week for Waste Reduction Conference and Awards Ceremony, 19-20 June 2012, Paris, France

In June 2012, an international conference on the **European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR)** will be held in Paris, with a view to presenting the results of the EWWR LIFE+ project after three years of implementation. The growing importance of the EWWR after each edition encourages more participation and the **EWWR is now included in the agenda of most EU countries** and the story will continue.

The conference will highlight the increased coverage of the EWWR, the communication tools developed within the project and made available both to EWWR coordinators at national, regional and local level and to EWWR action implementers. Representatives from the European Commission and from the national and regional EWWR coordinators will take part in the conference, and the project partners will therefore have a great opportunity to share their expertise in the implementation of the Week in their area.

The conference will be followed by the prestigious EWWR **awards ceremony**, during which the best communication actions implemented in the EWWR 2011 will be rewarded. An award will be presented for each project developer category: Administrations, Associations, Business, Educational establishment, Others.

More information on [www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu)



EUROPEAN WEEK  
FOR WASTE REDUCTION



# Recent News

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## ACR+ General Assembly and International Conference, 26-27 October 2012, Genoa, Italy

On 26-27 October 2011, the beautiful City of Genoa hosted the ACR+ Annual General Meeting with a 2 day-event focusing on the implementation of the **Waste Framework Directive** at local and regional level.

Featuring international experts and ACR+ member cities and regions, the different sessions presented European overviews as well as **showcasing practical experiences on waste prevention**, selective collection and **recycling performances**. The specific role of economic instruments was also explored and a specific session addressed the case of waste management in neighbouring Mediterranean countries.

The conference programme can be viewed [here](#).

Members can view the presentations given at the conference [here](#).

Photos from the conference are available for public viewing [here](#).



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## ACR+ 2012 Work Programme Available

The **ACR+ 2012 Work Programme** is now available. Below is a short summary of the activities planned.

The Genoa AGM in October 2011 was an opportunity for ACR+ members to discuss the activities which will be carried out during the next year. Key projects include:

1. **Waste prevention** – to promote waste prevention through ACR+ training modules; databases of good practices; an expanded European Week for Waste Reduction; the

development of decision-making and monitoring tools; and linking waste prevention with other policies (such as resource efficiency and sustainable consumption). This is in line with the Waste Framework Directive that promotes waste prevention requirements for European public authorities.

2. **Recycling and resource recovery** – aiming to build on the evolving European recycling regulations, ACR+ will analyse progress towards a European Recycling Society and identify outstanding good practices throughout Europe by means of the *European Observatory for Municipal Waste Recycling Performances*.
3. **Economic Instruments** – In 2012, ACR+ will analyse the use of economic instruments such as taxes, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, PAYT systems, deposit schemes, etc, highlighting their role in support of the waste hierarchy. ACR+ proposes to create a European EPR Club gathering the different stakeholders and allowing a dialogue about the EU policy developments and technical implementation of EPR schemes throughout Europe.
4. **Euro-Mediterranean Network for Waste Management (ACR+MED)** – development of this network will continue in order to build the capacities of public authorities with regard to waste management, and to exchange information and expertise concerning solutions adapted to specific technical, legal and financial contexts.

The detailed activities (events, publications, webinars, etc) are available at [www.acrplus.org/work\\_programme\\_top](http://www.acrplus.org/work_programme_top)

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## The European Week for Waste Reduction Third Edition, 19-27 November 2011

The record from last year has been broken (4346 actions were implemented in 2010 and 2672 in 2009)!

**7035 EWWR actions** were validated to take place during the 2011 edition.

One word to summarise the actions implemented in 2011: **diversity**. During the EWWR you might talk with students acting as waste prevention ambassadors, admire pieces of art (made of bottle caps, plastic bags or clothes), compare shopping trolleys, etc. It is impossible to mention all of the actions that took place here, but all validated EWWR actions are listed on the [EWWR website](#).



During this 3rd edition of the EWWR, some common actions were developed and implemented, with the aim of quantifying waste that can be reduced through a specific action. These actions also aimed to reinforce the pan-European aspect of the project by creating a real “community of participants” across Europe, and attracting media and public attention by implementing similar symbolic actions in different places and contexts. The common actions focused on **4 symbolic issues and waste flows**:

- **Paper waste reduction**
- **Food waste reduction**
- **Repair/Reuse**
- **Excessive packaging waste reduction**

In addition, a pilot common action of Europe-wide “clean-up” day was promoted. Detailed information about how these common actions were implemented, and in particular how the avoided waste was measured, will be available soon on the EWWR website and from EWWR Organisers.

**Press Releases in [English](#) and in [French](#) are available here.**



EUROPEAN WEEK  
FOR WASTE REDUCTION



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## **International Conference on Economic Instruments and Waste Prevention, 22 November 2011, Brussels, Belgium**

The conference “Economic instruments and waste prevention” was organized by [Brussels Environment](#) and ACR+ with the support of FostPlus. This meeting was organized during the [European Week for Waste Reduction](#) (19-27 Nov. 2011). It provided the opportunity to evaluate the situation on economic instruments implemented across Europe and their impact on waste prevention at the source. Key instruments such as « pay as you throw », eco-taxes, deposit schemes, buying cards and the producers’ extended responsibility were discussed.

**Further information, including links to the speakers’ presentations and the event programme can be found at [www.acrplus.org/economic instruments](http://www.acrplus.org/economic_instruments)**

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## Publication 'Report on The Interpretation of Life Cycle Thinking in the Waste Management Hierarchy'

The final report of the International Experts Seminar on "**The Interpretation of Life Cycle Thinking in the Waste Management Hierarchy**", which was held in Brussels in July 2011, has now been published. The Seminar was organised by [ACR+](#) with the support of the [Holcim Group Ltd](#). It gathered a group of experts in order to clarify and discuss the interpretation of the EU waste hierarchy through Life Cycle Thinking, as foreseen in article 14, 2 of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98, illustrated by concrete examples of waste management.

The **final report**, summing up the participants' contributions, as well as giving interesting conclusions is now available on our website for ACR+ members, and upon request for non-members at:

[www.acrplus.org/seminar\\_life\\_cycle\\_thinking](http://www.acrplus.org/seminar_life_cycle_thinking)

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## Experts Conference on Bio-Waste Prevention, Miniwaste Project, 13 September 2011, Brno, Czech Republic

In the framework of the Life+ Project **Miniwaste**, a technical workshop was held in Brno (Czech Republic) in order to share expertise about preventing and reusing bio-waste. This conference in particular addressed the issue of bio-waste management in the Czech Republic and in Europe. During the conference, experts from [Rennes Metropole](#), [Greater Porto area](#) and [Brno](#) presented achievements in their respective cities. The conference provided the opportunity to present the state of play regarding the **monitoring and assessment of bio-waste prevention**, and some good practices in relation to composting, and green and food waste prevention.

Amongst the audience were not only experts but also local authority representatives, and other actors involved in the field of waste reduction.

Full details of the Brno conference including presentations can be found at [http://www.miniwaste.eu/en/tools--events/brno-conference-2011/page\\_hU.html](http://www.miniwaste.eu/en/tools--events/brno-conference-2011/page_hU.html)

The following link contains the [programme](#) for the event.



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## **GODEM Second Regional Conference on Waste Management in the Mediterranean, 19-20 September 2012, Tripoli, Lebanon**

The regional seminar, organised with the support of the European Commission, was **attended by more than 60 participants** representing national and international waste management officials from local, regional and national authorities.

The Al Fayhaa project focuses on the possibility of **setting up a composting facility** in the vicinity of the landfill site in order to be able to prevent as much waste as possible from being dumped in the landfill.

The Al Fayhaa seminar focused mainly at presenting and discussing the general principles and technical data related to the concrete implementation steps Urban Community Al Fayhaa (UCF) has embarked on in the context of the GODEM project.

The seminar was also an opportunity to provide an **update on the state of the other CUIDAD projects**. The participants agreed that they have now a better insight into the themes of **composting, complaint centers, the GODEM projects and waste management policies and actions** in Lebanon.

This seminar was made possible through the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of the Al Fayhaa management team.

Consult the GODEM webpage: <http://www.acrplus.org/godem>



## Experts Training Seminar on Waste Prevention, Pre-waste Project, 12 October 2011, Bucharest, Romania

Cities and regions had the opportunity to be trained by EU experts in waste prevention, during a one-day training session held in **Bucharest on 12 October 2011**. Organized by SPCII Ilfov, this interactive and practical event **focused on how to elaborate a waste prevention plan and how to transfer waste prevention good practices in regional contexts**.

**Half of the training was dedicated to waste prevention planning**, covering what a waste prevention plan should look like, the key steps to keep in mind when drafting a waste prevention plan, and the main difficulties encountered in waste prevention planning. **The other half of the training was about the transferability of waste prevention good practices**, covering the key elements necessary to ensure their implementation in an area. During the training, a specific focus was given to the good practices gathered by the Pre-waste partners, in link with waste prevention planning, as this training was also aimed at helping the partners drafting feasibility studies about some initiatives they wish to implement in their regions.

Programme and presentations at <http://www.prewaste.eu/project.html>



## Horizon 2020 Training - Integrated Solid Waste Management Options in the Mediterranean, 22-24 November 2011, Ramallah, Palestine

As part of Horizon 2020's aim to **de-pollute the Mediterranean by 2020**, the objective of this training course was to increase the trainees' understanding of the challenges of Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM) and to develop their skills to allow for **appropriate decision-making** emphasising the appropriate technologies.

The workshop succeeded in bringing together 23 high level representatives of the different stakeholders and in pin-pointing the main problems of waste management in the area. Various solutions to solving these diverse and critical issues were forwarded, regarding technological needs and financial recovery.

Participants visited the non-sanitary landfill of Ramallah area, 2 schools, and the Environment Quality Authority HQ in order to gain **first-hand experience** of the efforts in waste management education. The deputy Chairman of the EQA presented a future roadmap towards an Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy, which made the event a successful one.

**More information on the Horizon 2020 trainings can be found at:**

[www.acrplus.org/horizon2020](http://www.acrplus.org/horizon2020).



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## WELCOME!

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

- [El Consorci per a la la Gestió de Residus del Vallès Occidental](#) (Spain).

El Consorci is the public body responsible for waste management in the “Comarca del Vallès Occidental”, in Catalonia, Spain. It includes important Catalan cities, such as Terrassa, Sabadell and Sant Cugat, from a total of 20 municipalities.

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



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