



# ACR+ Update

ASSOCIATION  
OF CITIES  
AND REGIONS  
FOR RECYCLING  
AND SUSTAINABLE  
RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

Spring 2012

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## EDITO

2012 is blooming with new projects for ACR+ and its members pursuing sustainable waste management at local level, as you will discover in the present release of ACR+ Update:

- On 4th June 2012, we will be launching the brand new **European EPR Club**, creating a dialogue place about the hot topic of **Extended Producer Responsibility in Europe** with interested stakeholders and experts
- Together with 11 cities and regions, the **Interreg IVC project Regions For Recycling (R4R)** has now started with the ambitious objective of enhancing the regional contribution towards a European Recycling Society
- After the 3 successful editions of the **European Week for Waste Reduction**, we will **celebrate the best actions 2012** share experiences and pave the way for the next years. Join us in **Paris on 19-20 June 2012** for the **EWWR Conference and Awards Ceremony!**
- The call for membership for the **ACR+ MED network** is now launched and will lead to the creation of this specific initiative dedicated to integrated sustainable waste and resource management in the cities and regions in the Union for the Mediterranean area
- And do not forget to save the dates for the final conferences of the EU projects **Green Commerce, Prewaste and Miniwaste!**

More information in this ACR+ Update issue. [Have a good read!](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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### **EPR Club launch event - Register now!**

**New Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR)** schemes are created all around Europe, promoted by the European Institutions as a powerful tool to increase recycling of packaging, electronic waste, batteries and other types of waste. Consumers, producers, municipalities and waste management operators are all concerned by these new evolutions.

ACR+ decided to create the **EPR Club**, a new exchange platform on EPR schemes in Europe aiming at benchmarking on recycling performances, European harmonization, fair competition, public control or best practices.

**We are delighted to invite you to discover the new European EPR Club during a seminar and networking event.**

**Launch event:**

Title	<b>ACR+ EPR Club Launch Event</b>
When	<b>4th June 2012, from 15:30</b>
Where	<b>European Economic Social Committee, Rue Belliard 99, 1040, Brussels</b>
Programme	available <a href="#">here</a>
Registration	<b>Registration <a href="#">form</a></b>

More information is available at [www.acrplus.org/epr\\_Club](http://www.acrplus.org/epr_Club)



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### Green Commerce - next steps

We are now entering the last months of the Green Commerce Life+ project. Let us present you the timeline of the upcoming important steps:

- From **22 to 25 May 2012**, the Green Commerce project will be present at the Green Week in Brussels (at the Valencia Region booth)
- By the end of **May 2012**, the Green Commerce technical guide will be published as well as the educational video (soon available on GC website [www.lifeplusgreencommerce.eu](http://www.lifeplusgreencommerce.eu))
- On the **18<sup>th</sup> of June 2012**, there will be a final dissemination event in Torrevieja with the objective of sharing the results of the pilot Green Commerce audits in 100 shops and discuss the technical requirements to obtain the GC label
- In **September 2012**, the final Green Commerce conference will take place in Brussels with objective of presenting the conclusions of the project and drawing the possible future for a European Green Commerce Label with key stakeholders

Stay tuned and do not hesitate to send us suggestions or comments on the Green Commerce Blog [www.lifeplusgreencommerce.eu/blog](http://www.lifeplusgreencommerce.eu/blog)



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### European Week for Waste Reduction: Call for organisers 2012

**All European public authorities with competence in the field of waste prevention** are now invited to become **official Organisers** of the 2012 edition of the EWWR, from **17th to 25th November 2012**, on their territory.

Due to the success of the Life+ project EWWR, an increasing number of organisations including associations, NGOs, schools, universities, administrations, businesses, etc. are willing to implement waste prevention actions during the Week. EWWR Organisers will act as coordinators of the EWWR by **promoting the event and officially registering actions** at the level of competence covered by their authority.

EWWR Organisers will benefit from the experience of a pan-European network proactively involved in the promotion of waste reduction and gain media visibility resulting from participation in a European project. In addition, they will have access to the official **EWWR communication tools** and receive some support from the EWWR Secretariat all the way through the process.

To join the group of public authorities in charge of organising this crucial awareness raising event on waste

prevention, simply sign and send us back the [Organisers' Commitment Charter](#). Registrations will be open until **31 May 2012**, so do not wait, join the EWWR!

[Organisers' Commitment Charter](#) and for further information are available on the [Organiser section](#) of the EWWR website.

You can also contact the EWWR Secretariat at [contact@ewwr.eu](mailto:contact@ewwr.eu).



MORE INFORMATION AT :  
[www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu)



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## Final Conference of the EWWR project and Awards Ceremony, 19th June, Paris, France

The most outstanding actions carried out during each edition of the [European Week for Waste Reduction](#) are rewarded every year during a **European awards ceremony**, which will take place this year on the **19th of June in Paris**.

Prizes are granted for the **most outstanding EWWR actions** carried out in 5 different categories:

- Administration/public authority
- Association/NGO
- Business/industry
- Educational establishment
- Other (for example hospital, retirement home, cultural institution...)

There will also be a special award for the Jury's favourite action. The jury is composed of representatives of each category and the finalists and winners will be selected among nearly 100 actions nominated by the national and regional EWWR Organisers.

The awards will be presented in the presence of representatives from the **project partners, EWWR Organisers** and the **European Commission**. Closing remarks will be made by European Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik through a video-connection.

Earlier the same day, the **final conference of the LIFE+ 2009-2011 project EWWR** will highlight the **main results of the EWWR** during these 3 years and give the opportunity to **share the expertise** of the project's partners and EWWR Organisers. The conference will continue with a focus on **waste prevention communication** strategies where 3 main topics will be discussed:

1. How does communication contribute to achieving waste prevention objectives?
2. Understanding what Europeans think about their waste, for more effective communication
3. Adapting strategies to regional particularities and engaging European citizens to take action: analysis, impact, effectiveness.

The EWWR conference will be followed on **June 20th** by a **technical conference** organized by the ADEME about the implementation of waste prevention plans and programmes, and other specific themes like hazardous waste, food wastage in schools and reusable nappies.

Further information is available on the [EWWR website](#).

You can also contact the EWWR Secretariat at [contact@ewwr.eu](mailto:contact@ewwr.eu).



MORE INFORMATION AT :  
[www.ewwr.eu](http://www.ewwr.eu)



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## ACR+ MED, a new permanent network of Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) for an Integrated and Sustainable Waste and Resource Management in the Mediterranean area

ACR+MED is a network for LRAs and other stakeholders such as: networks of LRAs, businesses, academia, NGOs and CBOs, Financing Institutions, Technology and Service Providers related to Waste Management and international agencies in the geographical area determined by the Union for Mediterranean.

**ACR+MED Vision:** Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) part of the Union for the Mediterranean – (UfM: EU 27 + 16 Med countries) achieve excellence in the field of Integrated Sustainable Waste and Resource Management (ISWRM) services, through capacitated and dedicated staff, involved and committed stakeholders and aware and participating citizens.

**ACR+MED Mission:** share knowledge, enhance awareness, raising capacity of LRAs and assure best practices are spread in the area in order to accelerate the uptake of the ISWRM principles such as eco-design, resource efficiency, waste avoidance or prevention, product reuse, waste collection, transport, recycling, recovery, and final disposal.

### ACR+MED Objectives

- Addressing the resource and waste management challenges in the South of the Mediterranean area
- Promoting ISWRM strategy
- Building dynamic partnerships to resolve environmental problems
- Providing a practice oriented knowledge network to help initiate and implement innovative concrete projects
- Collating databases on waste generation and management for LRAs.
- Providing a platform to LRAs for benchmarking in the field of waste prevention and management
- Enhancing local and regional capacity in waste management through trainings

**ACR+MED Approach:** facilitate the entire spectrum of policy/governance to action/implementation aspects with a focus on LRAs and to strive for improved waste and resource management policies. Municipal Waste management is a service that is mostly rendered by LRAs. Focus on LRAs is important as LRAs form, through the competences they have in the matter, a key element for implementation as well as engagement with key stakeholders such as the Government, Business as well as communities.

More information and registration at [www.acrplus.org/acrmed](http://www.acrplus.org/acrmed)



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### Save the date: Miniwaste final conference, 20-21 November 2012, Rennes

The **Miniwaste final conference** will take place in **Rennes (France)** on the **20-21 of November**, during the [European Week for Waste Reduction](#). This event will exhibit the results of the project and highlight the main tools available for cities and regions to address bio-waste prevention on a local or regional scale.

This one-and-a-half-day event will include both presentations and discussions amongst bio-waste experts and workshops with smaller groups. During the conference, the participants will also have the opportunity to test the computerized tool developed to monitor bio-waste prevention activities and to see what communication tools were used to involve citizens in local initiatives.

During the first afternoon, the European context will be presented (with ACR+ presenting various practices implemented in Europe) and various waste management strategies, from waste prevention solutions to centralized bio-waste management, will be compared. On the second day, the morning session will be very practical and interactive and will cover four issues: composting, reducing kitchen waste, monitoring tools (with in particular a focus on the protocols developed by Irstea/Cemagref and the computerized tool) and

garden waste. The afternoon will address the results obtained by Rennes Metropole, Lipor and Brno in mobilizing citizens and stakeholders in composting and other actions to reduce bio-waste at source. Eventually, a roundtable will give the floor to public authorities' representatives, from local to European level, in order to debate strategic choices regarding bio-waste management.

Miniwaste is a 3-year European project supported by the [LIFE+ programme of the European Commission](#) (2010-2012), that aims to help public authorities to minimise municipal organic waste in EU countries. Each European produces between 100 and 200 kg of bio-waste each year. All of this waste has economic and environmental impacts. By helping to prevent bio-waste, Miniwaste will reduce significantly the costs of collection and treatment. It will also lead to enhanced valorisation of resources and to reduced climate change impacts (through diminished CO2 and methane emissions).

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



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## Recent News

### Second Working Group for the European Decentralised Observatory for Municipal Waste Recycling performances, 17-18th April, Paris, France

The European Decentralised Observatory for Municipal Waste Recycling performances is a platform where local and regional authorities can share experiences and demonstrate best practice in order to:

- achieve higher recycling rates
- improve communication with citizens
- reduce the negative environmental (including climate change) and financial impacts

As a continuation of the successful [first Observatory working group](#), which took place in Brussels in February 2011, ACR+ successfully held the **second working group**, which took place on **the 17th and 18th April, in Paris**.

Over the course of the event, the Observatory members had the opportunity to listen and evaluate on the results, outcomes and challenges of the **1st Observatory working document**, comment on the benchmarking applied across the European Regions and Cities and conclusions were drawn and discussed

During the workshop participants had the chance to split into working groups in order to discuss key topics such as the priority waste indicators for data analysis in several municipalities.

The **final working document** of the European Decentralised Observatory for Municipal Waste Recycling performances will be published end of **June 2012**.

More information on [www.acrplus.org/Observatory](http://www.acrplus.org/Observatory)



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### Final ACR+ Report on Glass Collection Schemes, February 2012

ACR+, on behalf of the European Container Glass Federation (FEVE), conducted the study on “**Good Practices in collection and closed-loop glass recycling in Europe**”, which aims to identify good practices in selective collection and closed-loop recycling of glass packaging waste from Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) across European regional and local authorities.

The research demonstrates that **single stream glass collection** provides a high quantity and quality of recycled glass for recycling. In the study, the post consumer glass selectively collected varies from case to case: 13 kg/inhabitant/ year (in Porto) to 47 kg/inhabitant/year (in the Canton of Geneva), underlying the differences not only in performance but also in glass packaging use as well as the existence of **deposit schemes** competing with municipal collection.

**Separate collection schemes** and glass recycling are key drivers in a **circular glass “bottle-to-bottle” production**. Where it is in place, the separated collection scheme may need further optimization. Where other systems are in place, separated collection should be supported and given preference.

The final report, the press release in 5 languages and the study fact sheet can be downloaded at [www.acrplus.org/glass\\_recycling\\_report](http://www.acrplus.org/glass_recycling_report)

Furthermore, the background to, and the main findings of this study were made available to ACR+ members by means of a webinar, which took place on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2012. It was conducted by **Fabrice Rivet, Environment, Health and Safety Director at FEVE** and **Hara Xirou, Project Manager at ACR+**.

More information is available at [http://www.acrplus.org/glass\\_recycling\\_report](http://www.acrplus.org/glass_recycling_report)



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### **Launch of the "Regions 4 Recycling" Project: the regional contribution to a European Recycling Society**

The ‘**Regions 4 Recycling**’ **Interreg IVC** European project was launched on the 18th April 2012. This partnership project led by the Ile-de-France Region Waste Management Observatory (**ORDIF**) brings together 12 European Regions with the ambitious target to **promote regional contributions towards a European Recycling Society**. Thus, local and regional authorities will aim to make consistent comparisons via a common methodology and exchange of good practices related to local instruments in order to improve their recycling performances.

European municipalities are subject to common EU waste management regulations but have taken different approaches to reach the recycling targets. Differences between the recycling performances are evident, ranging from less than 10 % to more than 70 % from one region to another.

The **3-year R4R** project aims to work on a common framework for waste data observation, selective collection and recycling rates where by assessing the local instruments (technical, economic or legal) with the aim to reduce the recycling performance gap between the EU regions.

The R4R project is led by **ORDIF** whereas the overall project communication is managed by **ACR+**, and the technical component is coordinated by the Public Waste Agency of Flanders, **OVAM**.

The project was officially launched at a conference on **18th April in Paris** bringing together the different partners and issues of waste management and their shared observation, in the presence of the European Commission, the French Ministry for Environment and **ADEME** (French Agency for the Environment and Energy Management)

More information is available at [www.acrplus.org/r4r](http://www.acrplus.org/r4r)





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### Webinar 'Plan C' A Flemish Transition Network for a Sustainable Materials Management, 29th March

This webinar focused on the “**Plan C**” developed by **ACR+ member OVAM**, the Flemish Public Waste Agency, and was presented by **Mr. Walter Tempst**, Innovation Advisor.

OVAM started "Plan C" in 2006, a transitional network that brings together individuals and organisations (from the public sector, the business world, academia and NGOs) to **jointly create breakthroughs in sustainable resource management**.

The methodology of Plan C to guide experiments from initial idea to proof of concept and eventual to transition in materials management has been developed in a learning-by-doing approach, and its objective is to envision societal change with a focus on sustainable material management. Some examples of experiments are situated in the field of product-service systems, chemical leasing, landfill-mining, closed loops of materials, product design, local production and consumption, etc.

For more information on this and other ACR+ webinars, please see <http://www.acrplus.org/Webinars>



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### Mediterranean Countries Mobilise for an Optimised Waste Management, GODEM Third Regional Conference, 24-25th January 2012, Sousse, Tunisia

ACR+ organised, in conjunction with the [city of Sousse](#), the [ANGED](#), and [Bruxelles Environnement](#), a seminar in **Sousse, Tunisia, from 24-25 January 2012**, with the financial support of the European Union.

This seminar provided 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 focused 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

This seminar was 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).

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

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



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### Horizon 2020 Training: Tendering process and contracts in municipal solid waste management, Lebanon, March 2012

The "[Horizon 2020 Initiative](#)", funded by the European Commission, 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 waste water and industrial pollution.

ACR+, as a partner in the Horizon 2020 project, organizes different capacity building trainings in the Mediterranean area. The last training was held in **Lebanon**, from **22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2012**.

The title of the seminar was: "**Tendering process and contracts in municipal solid waste management**"

The main objective of the course was to increase the trainees' understanding in the process of preparing for private sector involvement that starts with the preparation of tender documents and ends with the selection of a contractor.

More information is available at <http://www.h2020.net>



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### **Horizon 2020 Training: Solid Waste Management with particular focus on private sector participation, Morocco, December 2011**

A training on Integrated Sustainable Waste Management was held in Casablanca from 7-9 December 2011. The training, attended by 35 officials from local and national authorities, focused on **private sector participation**. The main objective of this training was to **increase the trainees' understanding** of the challenges and opportunities when allowing for private sector participation in the field of waste management and **develop their skills to allow them for appropriate decision making** regarding Solid Waste Management options with emphasis on private sector participation. The different modules highlighted the following subjects: why privatise? How to prepare for private sector involvement? Tendering process and contracts and finally monitoring issues.

The training offered, according to the trainees, a lot of useful information on private sector participation in the field of SWM. All trainees mentioned that the program corresponded to the course information they received beforehand.

Information on other trainings offered through the Horizon2020 programme (with the support of the European Commission) can be found [here](#).



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## **WELCOME!**

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

- **[Conseil Régional de l'Île de France \(FR\)](#)**  
The regional council intervenes in numerous fields affecting the daily lives of Île-de-France's inhabitants.  
The Conseil Régional focuses on several aspects of waste - namely prevention, recollection and treatment, with particular focus and efforts on waste prevention. Their regional strategy for waste prevention includes involving the private sector in waste prevention, as well as instating local programmes, for long-term effective reduction in waste generation.
- **[Passerelles.info \(FR\)](#)**  
The association Passerelles.info, created in 2007, aims to develop education programs, information and training in the fields of environment, health and citizenship. It aims to promote the development of relations between experts and mediators as well as strengthening social ties.
- **[Ressources \(BE\)](#)**  
Ressources is the federation of social enterprises active in the reduction of waste through reuse and resources recovery. The association is based in Namur, Belgium.
- **[SYBERT \(FR\)](#)**  
SYBERT is the Intermunicipal Waste Management Company in charge of the waste management in

Grand Besançon, France.

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

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ASSOCIATION OF CITIES AND REGIONS FOR RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT