



# NEWSLETTER #2

November 2012



*Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter of the R4R project, a vehicle to provide news from Europe and our 13 Project Partners relating to their waste management and recycling activities.*

*If you would like to add a colleague to receive this service, or if you have any items of interest you would like to contribute, send us an email at [info@regions4recycling.eu](mailto:info@regions4recycling.eu).*

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### 01. R4R Project progress



Following the success of the launch of the **Regions for Recycling project (R4R)** last April in Paris, OVAM (Lead Partner for Component 3) has been collecting and analysing the waste and recycling data received by the 12 European Project Partners. Variances amongst the partners on the waste data such as: the selective collection rate and the amount (kg) of waste generated per year reported has been observed.

The R4R team is now collecting a list of **local instruments** used in regional and local authorities to optimise waste management. Local instruments are any instruments that can be used by a local/regional authority to optimize municipal waste recycling on its territory. We distinguish the following 4 types of local instruments: technical, legal, communicative and economic instruments. This list of local instruments will be **part of a report** on "External factors and local instruments" and the team will present an evaluation of these local instruments in relation to good practices.

The **second Regions for Recycling (R4R) Networking Event** will take place in Athens on 12 December 2012.

The event will give the opportunity to Greek regional and local authorities and other key stakeholders to exchange views and learn more about waste management activities and good practices in other European regions. More specifically, the event will provide an update of the R4R project, of recycling performances in Europe and of the Greek waste management situation. Sharing experiences via parallel presentations of Greek local authorities and R4R Partners on specific issues such as Pay-As-You-Throw and biowaste management will also be addressed.

A Press Conference and study visit will follow the event.

- For more information and registration, please contact the R4R Team: [info@regions4recycling.eu](mailto:info@regions4recycling.eu)
- Source: <http://www.regions4recycling.eu>

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## 02. WEEE collection reporting 'must improve'



ENDS Europe daily: Reporting on the collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) must improve if new WEEE targets are to be met, stakeholders heard at a conference in London on Friday.

The conference was organised by the WEEE Forum, which represents a number of compliance schemes. Speakers included Karl Falkenberg of the European Commission, representatives from the manufacturing sector and recyclers.

Poor reporting and the lack of reliable data had already been pointed out at a [conference](#) organised by electronics firm HP in January.

Graham Davy of SIMS Recycling Solutions said the UK collected far more than required to meet the 45% weight-based target. Business-to-business data also needs improvement, he added.

The [new WEEE directive](#), which member states must transpose into national law by 14 February 2014, sets a minimum collection rate of 45%, or 40% for new member states. This interim target will apply from 2016 until the end of 2018. From 2019, member states will have a choice of two collection targets: 65% of EEE placed on the market or 85% of WEEE generated each year.

There was consensus among delegates at last week's conference that better data and reporting alone will not be enough from 2019. One hurdle is the falling weight of electronics, as laptops and flat screen displays replace bulkier technology. This means more items will have to be collected per tonne in the future to meet the 85% weight-based target. The growth of 'man and van' waste collections, driven by high metal prices, is also a threat. These recycle only a limited proportion of the WEEE they collect, and can pollute and pose health risks, said Leo Donovan of compliance scheme WEEE Ireland.

Karl Falkenberg told ENDS that responsible chains of custody need to be in place. The conference also heard that more convenient collection, better enforcement and financial incentives would help improve compliance. Better compliance could boost the economy by reducing dependence on imported rare earth metals. The commission is considering non-protectionist policies to help retain such resources in the EU, Mr Falkenberg told the delegates.

- [Read more](#)
- About the [new WEEE directive](#)

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### 03. Observatory Report to be published soon (*partner involved: ACR+*)



The development of the Observatory commenced in autumn 2010 after the ACR+ International conference **“Towards a European Observatory for municipal waste recycling performances”** on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010, in Paris. The first meeting took place on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 in Brussels, with the participation of 30 waste management experts (ACR+ members) interested in the project. Three specific working groups have since been created with the participation of 24 regions. The first results were presented at the ACR+ international conference in Genoa in October 2011.

The ACR+ team carried out the **2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group meeting** in Paris 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

All [3 Observatory Working Groups](#) attended and actively participated in discussions related to waste data management. The outcomes of the [1<sup>st</sup> Observatory working document](#) was presented and discussed, and **conclusions** were made regarding waste data gathering and benchmarking.

The Observatory Report **“ACR+ European Decentralised Observatory of Municipal Waste Recycling Performances”** is published in November 2012 and a working document was presented to ACR+ members during the ACR+ international conference [‘European Waste and Resource Days’](#)

- More details about this project: [www.acrplus.org/observatory](http://www.acrplus.org/observatory)
- Contact person at ACR+ Secretariat: Philippe Micheaux ([pmn@acrplus.org](mailto:pmn@acrplus.org))

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## 04. Flanders takes action to reduce food losses *(partner involved: OVAM)*



Every year approximately 2 million tonnes of food and organic waste streams are wasted in Flanders. By comparison: food companies in Belgium produce approximately 20 to 25 million tonnes of food annually. Approximately 75% of this is produced in Flanders (Source: Federation Food Industries (FEVIA) Sustainability Report 2011).

These 2 million tonnes include pure food losses as well as so-called secondary streams or fluxes, the non-edible portion of food products such as peels and bones which nevertheless can be used for other applications such as, for instance, animal feed, compost or energy generation.






The consumer discards a tenth of these 2 million tonnes – or +/- 200,000 tonnes – in the rubbish bin. This analysis demonstrates that food losses can be mapped out across the entire chain, from farmer to consumer.

The problem of food losses became increasingly relevant in recent years in a context of, inter alia:

- The volatility of commodity and food prices.
- The ethical problems associated with the availability of food, now and in future.
- Environmental pressures, to which the consumption of food contributes to a large extent.

### Study of food losses from a chain perspective

OVAM recently investigated the issue of food losses. To this end, it examined the issue of food losses across the entire chain in consultation with, inter alia, the food industry, the distribution sector and the agricultural industry, represented respectively by FEVIA, Federation for Commerce and Services (COMEOS) and the Farmers' Union. The study used data available from agriculture, the food industry, distribution, food services and consumers. Intensive calculation led to the following results for Flanders:

Primary sector	Food industry	Distribution	Food services	Households
				
425,000– 700,000 tonnes	1,073,000 tonnes	116,000 tonnes	166,000 tonnes	156,000– 235,000 tonnes

In total, it concerns 1,936,000 to 2,290,000 tonnes of food losses which...

Read the [full article on the R4R website](#)

### For more information:

- Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM)
- [www.ovam.be](http://www.ovam.be)

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## 05. From old to new: Pilot Project “Furniture Return Styria” (Retourmöbel Steiermark) (*partner involved: Styria*)



*The cooperating partners: HR DI Dr. Wilhelm Himmel, LR Johann Seittinger (Federal State Government of Styria), Paul Koch (MBA, Head of Kika and Leiner), Präs. Franz Küberl (Caritas), Mag. Christian Wolf (WISEs)*

According to the EU Waste Framework Directive, the re-use of goods is besides the waste prevention the second highest priority in waste management. A study from the Austrian Institute of Ecology ([“Re-use Steiermark”, 2010](#)) states that in Styria about 4.000 tonnes per year of used furniture, waste electrical equipment and used textiles have the potential for re-use.

Why used furniture is so less re-used is because of the wrong treatment of used furniture that is returned to the furniture stores. The restoring for resale is often too expensive and does not pay-off. On the other hand, there are a lot of work integration social enterprises (WISEs) that are specialized in the restoring and the reselling of used furniture in their shops, but they often lack the second-hand goods.

To foster the re-use of used furniture and at the same time to support the WISEs to acquire the necessary amount of used furniture they need for meeting the demand of the market, the Division Waste Management and Sustainability of the Federal State Government of Styria initiated the pilot project “Furniture Return Styria”. Besides the Federal State Government of Styria some Styrian social integration enterprises and the two big furniture stores “KIKI” and “LEINER” joined the project. The project partners have set up a [cooperation agreement](#) for one year.

Within the project cooperation, logistical solutions for the return and repair of used furniture are developed. If customers buy new furniture at LEINER or KIKI, they can return their used furniture there. WISE’s restore and repair the used furniture and sell it in their own second-hand shops.

The project creates a win-win situation for all parties involved. It contributes to the protection of resources and waste prevention, creates employment in the WISE’s and offers people with low income affordable second hand furniture.

The pilot project “Furniture Return Styria” is embedded as an integrative component in the [“Styrian Re-use Network”](#), an initiative that aims at the implementation of a network of re-use shops in Styria.

- [Read more](#) (German)
- About the [Federal State Government of Styria](#)

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## 06. Pesa la Brossa, a new citizen's participation project in Catalonia (*partner involved: ARC*)

### **Pesa la brossa**



The Waste Agency of Catalonia (ARC) has initiated the project "Pesa la brossa" ("weigh your garbage") to obtain objective data on the quantity and composition of domestic waste generated in Catalan households. The results obtained will help to improve the waste management system by means of more accurate and precise information on the present situation.

To that end a call for volunteers was placed on the [ARC-Website](#) and in the media. From all applicants 300 households were selected in order to get a representative sample for all sectors of the Catalan society and territory. The participants have committed themselves to weigh and report periodically during an entire year the waste bags they generate according to their typology and collection system (glass, paper&cardboard, packaging, mixed waste etc...). The process includes a continuous monitoring of the households as well as technical support for the weighing procedure if required. Data are transmitted on-line.

The follow up of the data will provide valuable information on the amounts and composition of domestic waste throughout the whole Catalan territory. The detailed knowledge of consumption and waste generation patterns will enable decision makers to design and apply tailor-made strategies and improvements in domestic waste management and to enhance the recycling performance.

The project is executed in collaboration and with financial support from the integrated management system for packaging waste ECOEMBES.

- [Read more](#)
- About [ARC](#)

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## 07. Waste management indicators and ranking selective collection systems in Lisbon (*partner involved: Lisbon City Council*)



Lisbon has just finished a working document about applying waste management indicators to different areas within the city, involving comparisons between the performances of 5 different waste collection subsystems.

The document defined several indicators, considered as the most important ones to the municipality, related to: waste production and recycling, coverage of the selective collection service, deposition equipments, waste collection routes, routes and human resources productivities and fleet management, as well as cost indicators, *per* economic component and *per* carried out service. After collecting and analyzing data, these indicators were calculated for different types of urban areas and collection systems: I) bring bank scheme with recycling bins (3 waste flows: glass, paper and packages) and II) with 1m<sup>3</sup> bins (4 waste flows, including residual waste), III) door to door collection in apartments (medium/high buildings), IV) single houses and V) historic neighborhoods. In order to simplify the comparison between a large number of indicators, rankings were established, in a qualitative scale, for groups of indicators related to recycling benefits, economic costs and cost-benefit analysis.

This study is part of a global project, called “Urban Waste Guide – Technical, Economic and Social Performance Indicators”, which has been developed in partnership with 3 universities and a waste treatment company. Its sponsor is the Portuguese Green Dot Company (Sociedade Ponto Verde), which has chosen Lisbon as the leader of this project, due to the complexity of the waste management in the city and the experience of the capital in this domain. Later on, a practical Urban Waste Guide will be made and spread, where the main indicators in this field and the way they are calculated can be consulted. The aim is to allow its being used by other municipalities or regions, at a national level, as a technical help and a tool to support superior decisions.

- About [Lisbon City Council](#)

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## 08. System for separate collection of hazardous household waste in Sofia (partner involved: Municipality of Sofia)



In the beginning of 2012, the Municipality of Sofia introduced a system for separate collection of hazardous household waste. The new system includes reception of the waste in situ on the holder or in mobile collection points, providing transportation and packaging for safe transport, subsequent treatment and disposal.

The main groups of hazardous waste collected from households are:

1. Mercury and Mercury-containing equipment (excluding fluorescent lamps);
2. Painting materials;
3. Household cleaners and chemicals;
4. Inks and contaminated packaging;
5. Pharmaceutical products – expired drugs;
6. Other hazardous waste which is thrown in municipal waste containers or on the municipal property, with composition and properties that create a risk to human health.

Hazardous waste shall be collected by households after the pre-filed request on a universal telephone number (price of a local number) and in the mobile collection point once a month with no cost to the citizens. Transportation and disposal is carried out by the contractor licensed to work with hazardous waste. The system of separate collection of hazardous waste from households is financed by the Municipality of Sofia, is free to citizens, and provides maximum comfort when citizens give their hazardous waste. It was met with great interest from citizens of Sofia. Evidence of the effectiveness is a significant amount of hazardous waste collected.

- [Read more](#)
- About the [Municipality of Sofia](#)

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## 09. Recycling company officially opened in Ilfov (*partner involved: Ilfov County Council*)



One of the most important recycling activities in Romania takes place in Ilfov and it is undertaken by **Monbat Recycling**, officially opened in Ilfov (Romania) on 9 June 2011.

Ilfov County Council is fully aware of the importance and the impact (at environmental and economic level) of the results of this activity, which mainly consists in recycling used lead batteries, by reducing lead oxides in a revolving furnace, in the presence of coke. It is displayed in three stages:

1. Storage of used batteries, crushing and parting the components;
2. Sweetening and neutralization, followed by the production of sodium sulphate that can be exploited;
3. Melting and refining, producing ingots of lead alloys, which are reused in the production of car accumulators;

Monbat Recycling, located in the town of Pantelimon (Ilfov), is a company which functions as an integrated part of a group (MONBAT Group of Companies, originally established in Bulgaria, expanding then in 2010-2011 to Romania and Serbia) with the following major activities: production and distribution of automotive and stationary batteries, recycling of all kinds of used lead-acid batteries, and Octalight LED – Light Emitting Diodes.

Monbat Recycling has recently taken part in a project that had the function of increasing the awareness related to the importance of recycling activities (especially the waste selective collection) among pupils from secondary schools: **EcoAttitude**, organized in the region Bucharest-Ilfov and supported by The Regional Agency for Environment Protection Bucharest, The Regional Agency for Environment Ilfov, The National Environmental Guard (Bucharest Commissariat), The National Environmental Guard ( Ilfov County Commissariat), The School Inspectorate Ilfov, and The School Inspectorate Bucharest).

Ilfov County Council, as a public authority interested in the environment protection by initiating a waste integrated management, is starting a cooperation with Monbat Recycling, based on increasing the visibility of recycling activities and conveying the results of this company as a good practice meant to contribute to the protection of the environment in the region.

- About [Monbat Recycling](#)
- About [Ilfov County Council](#)

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## 10. Containers decorated in street art project (*partner involved: Odense Waste Management Ltd.*)



Odense Waste Management Ltd. was a partner to the Art Exhibition Hall of Brandt Klædefabrik, Odense, when they recently celebrated their 75 years anniversary. Odense Waste Management donated an amount of containers of different sizes, and professional street art artists held a street art workshop where the containers were decorated. It was a very popular activity, and it brought attention to containers as an inevitable object in the streets.

- About [Brandt Klædefabrik](#)
- About [Odense Waste Management Ltd.](#)

*Pictures by: Harriet Jensen, Kreativ Grafisk, Denmark*

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# REGIONS FOR RECYCLING

