



# NEWSLETTER #3

June 2013



*Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</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.*

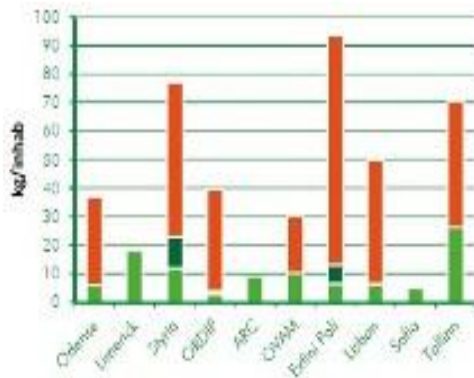
*If you would like to add a colleague to receive this service, or if you have any items of interest you would like to contribute, send us an email at [info@regions4recycling.eu](mailto:info@regions4recycling.eu).*

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### 01. Progress of the R4R project: a mid-term assessment



Helping cities and regions improve their waste recycling performances is the main objective of the [R4R project](#), launched at the beginning of 2012. Coordinated by ORDIF, OVAM and ACR+, this project will ultimately lead to a **common method for data comparison** (same scope and definitions, common range of indicators), an **online tool enabling cities and regions to compare their results** with other European territories, and a list of **good practices among local legal, technical, economic and communication instruments** that can be transferred onto other territories.

Since the beginning of the project, R4R partners have animatedly discussed the data comparison framework. They have looked at one another's performances for a number of waste flows (bio-waste, paper, metal, glass, WEEE, wood, textiles and plastics) and identified various sources of differences between their calculation methods. They have also listed local instruments in place in their areas and external factors that have an influence on recycling performances (e.g. socio-economic factors, geographic specificities, etc.). The partners have also agreed on the basis for the online tool and precisely defined suitable indicators.

In particular, they have come up with an indicator that is more precise than selective collection but still within reach of the public authorities: "DREC – Destination RECYcling". The notion of DREC includes sorted waste (separately collected waste streams, output from sorting installations, and output from MBT installations) that is going to facilities for recycling/composting/anaerobic digestion. DREC gives a more accurate view of the city or region's situation in terms of recycling performances, considering that not all sorted waste goes to recycling and that recycling is often managed abroad.

In order to share the project's first results, several networking activities have been implemented. In particular, R4R hosted an international conference in Odense, with a focus on visions for resource efficiency (see this issue for more information). A number of regional events also aimed at promoting the project and the exchange of expertise between cities and regions from the same country, for instance in Athens (December 2012) or Lisbon (18 April 2013, see this issue for more information). R4R partners are currently working on the organisation of a European training in Tallinn, focusing on data monitoring, foreseen for the first week of December. Other dissemination activities include, for instance, the use of social networks, such as the LinkedIn discussion group, where R4R partners have the possibility to exchange views with other stakeholders.

R4R activities are complementary to other initiatives, such as the work of the ACR+ Observatory of municipal waste performances. Launched as a prequel to R4R, the ACR+ Observatory aims at analysing in detail the issue of waste data comparison, and focuses on various topics, such as household waste and assimilated waste, work with material federations and more.

- Read more on [R4R project](#)

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## 02. New data on waste recycling in Europe



The European Environmental Agency (EEA) and EUROSTAT both released in March **reports concerning municipal waste management and recycling rates across European countries**. These reports show an improvement of recycling performances in Europe, though some countries are still far behind the best performers and might have difficulties to achieve the objective set by the EU Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC). The Directive sets a target of at least a 50% recycling for household waste, to be reached by 2020.

The picture provided by the two agencies, compared to ten years ago, highlights that the **quantity of waste sent to landfill has decreased while the amount of waste incinerated, composted and recycled has increased**. It has to be noted that the two different agencies came up with slightly different data sets as they used different methodologies and different years of reference (2010 for EEA and 2011 for EUROSTAT).

However, when looking at countries separately, the studies illustrate **great disparities across European countries**. In a rather short time, some countries have efficiently promoted a culture of recycling, with infrastructure, incentives and public awareness campaigns. For example the highest recycling rates can be found in Austria (63 % EEA), followed by Germany (62 %), Belgium (58 %) and the Netherlands (51 %). But others are still lagging behind, wasting huge amount of resources and damaging the environment. For example the highest landfilling rates can be found in some of the Central and Eastern European countries, in particular in Romania (99% EUROSTAT), Bulgaria (94%) and Latvia (88%), as well as in the Southern Mediterranean countries like Malta (92%), Greece (82%) and Cyprus (80%). In this regard the European Commission plans to organise additional seminars on municipal waste management in other Member States to improve their waste management performance.

Even within a country at regional or local level there are extreme cases of successful and unsuccessful practices of municipal waste management and substantial variation across recycling rates. For example EEA states that in 2010 in Italy the recycling rates in Veneto region amounts to 63% of its generated municipal waste whereas in Sicily region a total of 93% was landfilled. This example points out that regional and local policies have a major influence on municipal waste recycling rates. Although EU targets and national targets are the overall drivers of better municipal waste management, regional and local instruments are crucial for achieving positive results. It also implies that **regions with high recycling rates could serve as best practice models and become knowledge sharing platforms for other regions across Europe**. The [R4R project](#) is presently contributing to create an exchange platform to optimise data collection and benchmarking for recycling performances, and to link them with effective legal, economic, educational and technical waste management tools at regional and local level.

- Find out more: [EEA report](#) and [Eurostat](#) news release

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### 03. New focus of the ACR+ Observatory (partner involved: ACR+)



Launched in 2010 in Paris, the ACR+ Observatory of Municipal Waste Recycling Performances has carried out an in-depth analysis of waste data from 24 cities and regions. The first report was published in November 2012 and updated in spring 2013. This work highlighted the difficulties faced by local and regional authorities to compare their data and enabled the Observatory members to develop a common approach for data collection, as a prequel to the R4R project. The Observatory members met for the third time **in Odense on 14 May 2013**, as a side event to the R4R mid-term conference.

The main conclusions from this meeting show that the **exercise was very positively received** by the participating cities and regions, even though the calculation methods still need to be improved. The opportunity to continue regional comparisons with the benefit of the R4R tools has been deemed very interesting, and a clear synergy has been perceived between the two initiatives. The Observatory members agreed, in particular, that recycling data was most often out of their hands, and that it would be more accurate to talk about collection in view of recycling. This orientation matches the objectives of the DREC notion (Destination RECYcling), developed within the R4R project.

Moreover, considering the uncertainties remaining in the field of municipal waste, and particularly the fact that it is sometimes not clear whether commercial waste is included in the total and how to assess it more precisely, the Observatory members agreed to create a specific working group in charge of analysing the difficulties to collect separate data on **household waste / commercial waste** and how to overcome these difficulties. The Observatory members also expressed a strong interest to work on the **bulky waste** fraction, since it is not a waste flow as such, but the various material fractions are sometimes difficult to follow. Finally, the Observatory will specifically focus on packaging fractions and will work closely with material federations, especially considering the current revision of European waste targets. The Observatory is open to ACR+ members and they are all welcome to join the project and discussions.

- 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. Wise recycling and sustainability in Odense (*partner involved: Odense Waste Management Ltd.*)



“Wise Recycling” was one of the themes presented in the [R4R Midterm Conference](#), held in Odense, May 15th. Professor Thomas Hojlund Christensen from the Technical University of Denmark explained his research and development of EASETECH, a LCA-model applied in relation to recycling of solid waste. “Put focus on the value of resources being substituted instead of the amount of input sent to waste recycling facilities” he concluded. Other speakers focused for instance on the state of play of recycling in the EU and in Denmark.

A debate involving the R4R partners and the audience gave the opportunity to share views on resource efficiency and to pinpoint the key practices needed to ensure a high level of recycling. ACR+ animated the debate and stressed the importance of an integrated approach for resource, product and waste management respecting the waste hierarchy, i.e. giving the top priority to waste prevention, then to product reuse and material recycling before all other management alternative. ACR+ also reminded the key role of local and regional authorities and the importance of developing platforms for expertise sharing between the most and less advanced regions of Europe and also with its immediate neighbours like the Mediterranean area.

Odense Waste Management Company, which was hosting the conference and the subsequent steering group meetings from May 14th to 17th, tried during these days to give its many international R4R guests a broad impression of the different sustainability, reuse and recycling activities taking place in Odense. We saw for instance urban renewal with focus on preservation and reuse of old buildings as well as an old dumpsite transformed into a new attractive recreational area.

Apparently with some success. Berthold Schleich from Graz in Austria expressed it this way “Odense gives me an experience of a city that has integrated sustainable thinking in the culture and in architecture and design, more so than many other cities.”

The Odense Team was very content when the last R4R guests left on May 17th after a refreshing bicycle tour up and down the Odense River. Our main goal was achieved: Everybody had enjoyed some nice and cheerful days in the native town of Hans Christian Andersen.

- Read more about the [R4R mid-term conference](#)
- Read more about [Odense](#)

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## 05. 2013 Design for Recycling Awards (*partner involved: ARC*)



Design for recycling is one of the ecodesign strategies to improve the environmental performance of products throughout their life cycle. The Waste Agency of Catalonia has been working for over a decade to promote this strategy as a tool for waste prevention. As stated in the waste regulations, prevention is the top priority in this field.

This year's awards are part of the Catalan Ecodesign Programme (Ecodiscat 2012-2015), run by the Catalan Government's Ministry of Territory and Sustainability to promote the incorporation of ecodesign into the production process, a cross-disciplinary approach and knowledge transfer and the consumption of sustainable products and services in Catalonia.

The Catalan Ecodesign Programme is part of the new Catalonia 2020 Strategy (ECAT 2020), a strategic agreement to improve the competitiveness of the Catalan economy and employment. This strategy, in its 6th strategic pillar, aims to promote transition towards a more efficient economy in terms of resource use, as a means of reactivating the Catalan economy and creating employment, ecodesign being one of the instruments to achieve this. As well as its environmental benefits (ecoefficiency), ecodesign should be understood as a factor for differentiation and competitiveness for companies and an opportunity for market positioning.

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

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## 06. “Workshop R4R in Lisbon: Some Contributions to Achieve the Recycling Targets at a Local Level” (*partner involved: Lisbon City Council*)



On April 18th, the Municipality of Lisbon organized the “Workshop R4R in Lisbon: Some Contributions to Achieve the Recycling Targets at a Local Level”. Nearly a hundred Portuguese experts gathered in Lisbon to discuss how local and regional authorities can improve their waste collection, recycling policies and performances in order to achieve the reuse and recycling targets, established in the EU Waste Framework Directive and national law.

This event aimed at presenting the R4R European project and at sharing experiences between all the waste chain stakeholders: local authorities, waste recovery and treatment companies, non-governmental organizations, recycling industries and universities, too. It also intended to identify the main obstacles to selective collection and recycling processes, at a national and local level, and to discuss the ways to overcome them.

After the presentation of the R4R project made by the Municipality of Lisbon, the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) presented the EU Waste Framework Directive and explained the calculation options for reuse and recycling targets. This governmental body is now studying how to establish local goals for municipal waste and how to carry out the national targets in a global way. The National Regulator Authority for Water and Waste Services (ERSAR) presented the national panorama concerning recycling performances and tariff systems, based on waste management indicators, and informed about the problems found by the local authorities in data reporting.

The two biggest Portuguese municipal waste recovery and treatment companies, Valorsul and Lipor, respectively from the metropolitan and western region of Lisbon and from the metropolitan region of Oporto, were also invited to present their own efforts in order to improve their sorting treatment processes. Lipor also introduced some local projects and experiences about waste collection, namely in the city of Maia, aiming to reach higher recycling rates.

In addition to these presentations, all the participants were strategically distributed in six parallel group-work sessions, where they had to answer a specific question related to external factors, local instruments or difficulties conditioning waste management. The main conclusions of each group were later presented to the whole audience, by the group reporter. These group-work sessions promoted and enriched the debate and enabled the participants to get better acquainted.

The organization of the event and the themes proposed for discussion were evaluated by the participants as “very good” and “excellent”.

- [Read more](#) (in Portuguese)
- About [Lisbon City Council](#)

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## 07. New composting plant coming in Sofia (*partner involved: Sofia Municipality*)



By the end of 2013 should complete the construction of "Plant for the composting of green and organic waste - site "Han Bogorov". The installation is part of project "Integrated system of facilities for household waste treatment of Sofia Municipality", worth € 176,906,278, funded under the Operational Programme "Environment 2007 - 2013", EIB loan, national and municipal participation.

The site will be processed annually about 44,000 tons waste. After processing of separately collected organic (food) waste (20,000 tons) and the final product will be received compost and biogas, which will be converted into electricity and heat. Production of compost from separately collected biodegradable (garden) waste (24,000 tons).

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

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## 08. Tallinn took intermediate position between residents and waste removal companies (*partner involved: City of Tallinn*)



As of 1 March 2013, the City of Tallinn started providing waste removal services Door-to-Door to waste holders. Before this date all waste holders had to contact directly to private company, which won the tender for waste removal services in respected region. Local municipality played only role of supervisor, mainly dealing with complaints of residents and providing tenders, which caused longtime suits in court from companies, who did not win tender.

New system became more convenient to customers, because they deal only with specially settled Organized Waste Removal Sector in Tallinn Environment Department. Contracts can be concluded either through Internet using certificated digital signature or in service halls of Tallinn city Government. In the first stage, clients in the two regions in the City District of North-Tallinn will join the organized waste removal system, followed later by the City Districts of Kristiine, Kesklinn or City Center (excl. the Old Town) and Haabersti. During next 1-2 year this system will cover all territory of Tallinn.

The website E-Prügi or E-Waste in Estonian and Russian [www.prugi.ee](http://www.prugi.ee) was introduced since January 2013. The website provides different groups of customer (residents, companies, dwelling houses associations) with necessary information concerning waste management, sorting and selective collection and recycling, gives advises and supplies with links on respected legislation acts. Also there is a link to the list and locations of waste yards in Tallinn.

- About [City of Tallinn](http://www.tallinn.ee)

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## 09. From the pan into the tank – the separate collection of waste cooking oils and fats in Styria and the success story of biodiesel generation (*partner involved: Federal State Government of Styria*)



In the early nineties the Styrian Provincial Government started the areawide separate collection of waste cooking oils and fats. More than 3.600 tons of waste cooking oils and fats are produced in Styrian households every year, this corresponds to about 3 kilos per capita. One third of this amount is collected separately and is a valuable raw material.

Under the slogan “from the pan into the tank” the used cooking oils and fats in Styria are mainly processed to biodiesel by the South Styrian Cooperative for Energy and Protein Production (SEEG - [www.seeg.at](http://www.seeg.at)) in the south of Styria. Besides private cars and vehicles of transport companies, all public buses in Graz – the capital of Styria – are run by biodiesel produced by SEEG. The know-how of biodiesel production originates from Styria, SEEG started its biodiesel production already in 1991 as the worldwide first producer. The technology to produce biodiesel out of used cooking oils and fats was developed by the Styrian company BDI BioDiesel ([www.bdi-bioenergy.com](http://www.bdi-bioenergy.com)). BDI BioDiesel is the world market leader on the multi-feedstock technology, a process that enables to turn a wide range of raw materials into precious biodiesel. During the last two decades, BDI has planned and constructed more than 30 large-scale industrial BioDiesel plants on four continents, some of them with a capacity of 100,000 tons of biodiesel per year.

Another part of the collected waste cooking oils and fats are provided as raw material to the chemical industry in Styria, as the waste cooking oils and fats are a cheap alternative to fresh fats for the production of soft soaps and cleaning agents. Another part is provided to Styrian biogas plant operators.

Through the collection of waste cooking oils and fats, the treatment costs of sewage water and maintenance costs of canals can be reduced, as waste cooking oils and fats can lead to a blockage of the canal system. Moreover, the separate collection of waste cooking oils and fats contributes to the regional economy by sustaining the added value in the region, secures jobs and contributes – in the case of the biodiesel production – to climate protection.

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

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## 10. Papers : Ecofolio in Paris (*partner involved: ORDIF*)



Ecofolio, the organisation in charge of the EPR scheme on paper ('extended producer responsibility'), has been organising a national tour to meet local authorities in order to present the new financing scale.

In France, a specific decree regulates the organisation of paper waste since 2006; an EPR schemes is dedicated to them, encompassing all the paper meant to be printed or written on (thus excluding packaging and wallpaper). **Producers have decided to set a specific organisation, Ecofolio, to which they pay a fee that is used to finance the management of paper waste.**

This national tour gave the opportunity to highlight the **circular economy for paper**, but also to discuss **innovative practices** to promote its recycling and to present the financial and technical help provided by Ecofolio.

On 12 June, a meeting in Paris has brought together regional stakeholders. A charter has been signed by representatives of French mayors, French local authorities in charge of waste management and Ecofolio in order to improve paper recycling by modifying sorting instructions, which have been focusing too much on newspaper and magazines, thus leaving aside an important part of paper waste. By doing so, the participants hope to reach the **target of 55%** for recycling and to promote local use of recycled papers.

Representatives of several Ile-de-France local authorities have proposed illustration of their local actions, highlighting the importance of communication activities to promote selective collection. This message was also conveyed by Helder de Oliveira, ORDIF's director.

The financial relevancy of paper recycling has been highlighted by the president of Sictom du Hurepoix (a local authority in the southern part of Ile-de-France), who explained that paper is collected for free by a bring bank system financed by the waste collector. This message was confirmed by the mayor of Fuenlabrada, a municipality next to Madrid in Spain: **paper recycling allows the local authority to finance other part of the waste management system.**

Ecofolio's new financing scale was then presented. The support is extended to more types of paper and increases from 65 to 80 €/t. 5 M€ will be devoted to promoting the changes of behaviours by subsidising studies and new investments.

- More on [Ecofolio](#)
- More about [ORDIF](#)

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# REGIONS FOR RECYCLING

