



NEWSLETTER #4

December 2013



Welcome to the 4th Newsletter of the R4R project, a vehicle to provide news from Europe and our 13 Project Partners, related 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.

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01. Cities and regions on their way to get trained on waste monitoring



After the analysis and comparison of various waste data and the identification of local instruments for waste collection and recycling, the R4R partners are developing an **online tool enabling cities and regions to compare their results** with other European territories and get advice on relevant local instruments. This online tool will be **presented during a training event hosted by the city of Tallinn on 3 December**. Gathering over 100 participants, the training event aims to provide expertise on waste data monitoring and how to use the R4R online tool.

During the event, representatives from Tallinn and the Estonian Ministry of the Environment will present Tallinn's and Estonia's recycling strategies. Then, after a quick update on the R4R project's progress, a roundtable involving experts from Estonia and R4R partners will address awareness-raising good practices in Europe. Later that day, participants will attend **training sessions on how to use the R4R online tool and what are its benefits**, in parallel with **working groups on local and regional waste monitoring systems**. The training event will also give participants an opportunity to share expertise and create or reinforce contacts.

The R4R online tool will be made available to the public beginning of 2014 and will be accessible via the R4R website. A follow-up of this R4R training event will take place in Graz on 14 May 2014 to train cities and regions on good practices aimed at improving selective collection and recycling.

- Read more on the [R4R project](#)

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02. More than 12,600 actions in the EWWR 2013 (*partner involved: ACR+*)



According to the last count, **12,682 EWWR actions in 23 countries were implemented in the 2013 edition of the European Week for Waste Reduction**, from 16 to 24 November. Previous records have therefore been broken again (10,793 actions in 2012, 7,035 in 2011, 4,346 in 2010 and 2,672 in 2009). In order to coordinate and promote the 2013 Week, **34 Coordinators across 19 countries** mobilised stakeholders and validated their actions. Coordinated at European level by ACR+, the EWWR aims at gathering as many actions as possible raising awareness on the “3Rs”, Reduce waste, Reuse products, Recycle materials.

Under the direction of [national and regional coordinators](#), a variety of [Action Developers](#), including **administrations, associations and NGOs, businesses and industry, educational establishments, and individuals**, were involved in the EWWR 2013. By carrying out awareness-raising actions on the 3Rs, they targeted various audiences, from European citizens to employees and customers, pupils, or the general public. These actions, ranging from a simple e-mail to comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns, focused on the various stages of a product’s life cycle, from production, consumption and reuse to selective collection and recycling. As a next step after the week, each Coordinator will pre-select a maximum of 6 actions (one per category) that took place in their area for the [EWWR awards, to take place on 22 May 2014 in Rome](#).

During each edition of the EWWR, a specific focus will be given to an issue related to waste prevention to recall the importance of acting on waste at the source. **In 2013, the EWWR focused on reuse**, providing in particular a compilation of factsheets on specific reuse activities, like collection for reuse, creative reuse of products, swap or repair activities, etc. Another new feature of the EWWR is the organisation of a **European Clean-Up Day**, called [Let’s Clean Up Europe](#), to take place on 10 May 2014.

The EWWR 2013 took place under high level political support, reaching beyond party affiliation. It took place under the **patronage of Janez Potočnik**, European Commissioner for the Environment, and with the **support of several Members of the European Parliament**, namely Gaston Franco (EPP – rapporteur on the 7th EU Environment Action Programme), Vittorio Prodi (S&D – rapporteur on the plastic waste report), and Margrete Auken (Greens – ENVI Committee).

- More about the [EWWR 2013](#) and the [European Week for Waste Reduction](#)
- More about [ACR+](#)

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03. Tallinn gathers waste handling services under a new Waste Centre (partner involved: City of Tallinn)



Starting from 1 December 2014, a new institution will begin its operations under the Tallinn Environment Department; **the new Waste Centre will provide organised waste removal services in the Northern, City Centre, Haabersti and Kristiine districts of Tallinn.** The Environmental Department established a new service system in those districts since March 2013 – clients do not have direct contracts with waste collectors anymore and the removal service is organised by city authorities i.e. the Tallinn Environment Department.

The Department conducted a procurement to find suitable waste collectors and waste handlers, and determined the most optimal and least costly solution for both private and business clients holding waste. The new system enables a significant reduction of waste removal costs for residents and makes the services more comfortable and less time-consuming. The new system was established in compliance with the Waste Act in force.

Waste removal companies that had been using local waste collection procurements to get higher service prices now tried to declare the new waste removal system unconstitutional, stating that it infringes on their entrepreneurship freedom. The relevant **petition was submitted to the Chancellor of Justice.**

The Chancellor of Justice found that although the provision infringes on entrepreneurship freedom, it does not violate the Constitution. The infringement on entrepreneurship freedom is not severe because, although the new system could cause additional expenses to a waste removal company (having been used to settle the services on its own, the company now needs to reorganise its work), the company's overall business risk will be reduced (the local government will be dealing with clients not paying their bills). In summary, the Chancellor of Justice adopted the opinion that the values protected by these goals (human health, clean living environment, and nature) are very important, therefore the infringement on entrepreneurship freedom is justified.

The Chancellor of Justice's opinion confirmed once more that Tallinn is on the right track and the new system is worth developing and improving. This is why the new Tallinn Waste Centre was established, with its main responsibilities being provision of organised waste removal and waste handling services, on-site collection of wastes by types, development of waste recycling and opportunities, reduction of waste depositing, and increase of waste recovery rate.

- More about the [City of Tallinn](#)

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04. Carbon Footprint of MSW Management in Catalonia (*partner involved: ARC*)



The Waste Agency of Catalonia has presented the first report on the “Carbon Footprint of municipal waste management in Catalonia (2011-2012)” using a methodology based on the calculation of the emissions of greenhouse gases caused by the municipal waste management (transportation and treatment).

The study was elaborated by the organization Inèdit in collaboration with the Waste Agency of Catalonia and the Catalan Office of Climate Change. It used a calculation method developed by the research group SosteniPrA (Autonomous University of Barcelona), which enables to calculate the carbon footprint of municipal waste management. Thus, it can provide relevant environmental criteria for decisions on municipal waste management.

The results are available at the municipal and regional level, and for the entire territory of Catalonia:

1. In 2012, greenhouse gas emissions caused by municipal waste in Catalonia amounted to 1,558,560 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent/year.
 2. Municipal waste management, including recycling and disposal, avoided in 2012 the emission of 769,167 tonnes of CO₂ eq/year, which equals the emissions of 400,000 cars circulating 10,000 km per year.
 3. Taking into account the emissions avoided, **the total carbon footprint of municipal waste mounted to 789,393 CO₂ eq/year**. In terms per capita this means that **every Catalan citizen caused a footprint of 104 kg of CO₂ eq/year**. With reference to amounts of waste, each ton of municipal waste caused a footprint of 212 kg of CO₂ eq/year.
 4. Compared to 2011 data, the carbon footprint per capita was reduced by 12.6%.
- More information on the [Carbon Footprint of MSW in Catalonia](#) (in Catalan)
 - More about [ARC](#)

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05. Pilot project for separate collection of waste in two regions of Sofia Municipality – Ovcha Kupel and Kremikovci (2012 – 2014) (*partner involved: Sofia Municipality*)



Sofia Municipality has started a Pilot project on the “Implementation of a system for separate collection of packaging waste for districts Ovcha Kupel and Kremikovci”. This project is part of Project N° DIR 592113-1-9 – “Integrated system of facilities for household waste treatment of Sofia Municipality”, which was approved for financing with the 01.07.2011 decision of the European Union.

As part of the project, 504 plastic iglu-type containers of 1,100 litres capacity and 4,852 plastic containers of 120 litres capacity were bought, along with 1,009,236 plastic bags and five specialized lorries.

Separate collection in the two districts is organised through the use of 1,100 litre containers of 3 different colours (blue, yellow, and green) in residential areas, and through door-to-door collection of blue and yellow bags in the suburbs, with green 120 litre containers for glass.

Through the realization of this Pilot project, almost every household in the suburbs is expected to be covered. Furthermore, recyclable materials will be separated at the source. By 2017, this separately collected waste is expected to represent 26% of total waste generation in Ovcha Kupel district, and 22% in Kremikovci. Additionally, this project foresees **campaigns for promotion of separate collection and active participation of inhabitants** in this activity.

Realization of the project will be of great use for Sofia Municipality. Decreasing the frequency of household waste collection will help to reduce the expenses of collection, transport, separation and landfilling of household waste.

- More information [about this news](#) (in Bulgarian)
- More about the [Municipality of Sofia](#)

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06. Urban art in bottle banks (*partner involved: Lisbon City Council*)



The Municipality of Lisbon, in a partnership between the Urban Hygiene Department and the Urban Art Gallery of the Cultural and Heritage Department, promoted the 7th Edition of the "Recycle the Look" initiative to promote urban and plastic art in the city, under the Oceans theme.

The event took place in a new urban area of Lisbon named "Parque das Nações" which was revitalized due to the international event EXPO 98.

Six out of fifty five artists were selected to **paint 30 bottle banks** under the proposed theme which was also the motto of EXPO 98. Each artist painted five bottle banks in a sequence to illustrate a story related to the Oceans.

This initiative was launched on 26 October and took place in a very well-known square in "Parque das Nações" to promote **glass recycling and to minimize the visual impact** of this equipment in the public spaces, through the urban art concept.

After the artistic interventions, all the bottle banks were photographed and published on the [Facebook page of the Urban Art Gallery](#). The aim was to elect the most pleasant artist according to the number of "likes". The winner, Fábio Colaço, won an award, public recognition and visibility and the Municipality of Lisbon won compliments and public participation.

- [Read more](#)
- More about [Lisbon City Council](#)

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07. Sorting obligation for companies (*partner involved: OVAM*)



There is no doubt waste prevention is the first priority in the Flemish Waste and Materials Policy, followed by closing the material cycle. To achieve those goals, on 1 June 2013 the 'Flemish Regulation for the Sustainable Management of Material Cycles and Waste' (VLAREMA), entered into force. Among others, **this regulation contains a number of changes for businesses.**

To inform businesses timely about these new rules, the Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM) launched a mayor campaign end 2012 to mid-2013 about the new upcoming waste collection rules.

From 1 July 2013, the separate collection of PMD-packaging waste (Plastic bottles and flasks, Metal packaging and Drink cartons) became mandatory for businesses too, as it has already been in practice for many years for households. In addition, every business has to conclude a contract with a company which collects its mixed industrial waste. The contract describes all the waste produced by the business and how it will be sorted.

Separate collection scheme for PMD packaging waste from businesses!

Since 1 July 2013, businesses are obliged to sort PMD packaging waste, next to the 17 existing waste streams which have had a sorting obligation for many years. In Flanders, the municipalities have long organised the mandatory separate collection of PMD packaging waste produced by households. Until 1 July 2013 this was not compulsory for businesses. Businesses need to make the same efforts as households; PMD is perfectly recyclable and should therefore no longer end up in mixed industrial waste. The more we sort waste materials at source, the more pure the recyclable materials will be, which facilitates their processing.

Contract for the collection of mixed industrial waste to close the material loop!

Next to the mandatory separate collection of PMD since 1 July 2013 every company, as a waste producer, is obliged to conclude an extra contract with a private waste collector for its mixed industrial waste. This contract stipulates what does and does not belong in the container for mixed industrial waste. In this case recyclable materials are sorted out, are not mixed and the material loop is closed!

- More on [OVAM](http://www.ovam.be)

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08. EDM – Electronic Data Management environment wins EuroCloud Award 2013 *(partner involved: Federal State Government of Styria)*



The Electronic Data Management (EDM) of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (www.edm.gv.at) is an information network which allows businesses and authorities to handle registration and notification obligations in the waste and environment sectors online. EDM is a central eGovernment project, aimed to sustainably reduce the administrative burden of businesses and authorities on all administrative levels and to ensure a high level of environment protection in Austria.

In total, 40,000 registered users do about 800,000 notifications per year online, including 1,300 public officials at the federal, provincial and district levels.

In the field of waste management, EDM allows electronic notifications concerning ordinances and laws like the Austrian WEEE ordinance, the Packaging ordinance or the Ordinance on Waste Accompanying Documents (waybill notification). For example in the case of WEEE and batteries, notifications concerning marketing, collection and recovery can be submitted online. In the case of Packaging Waste, all preconditions for the fulfilment of the notification obligations by producers, importers, packaging companies, distributors and commercial end-users of packaging were created within the EDM programme.

EDM was now awarded with the EuroCloud Award 2013, winning the first prize in the category “Best Cloud Service Case Study Public Sector” by fighting against strong competitors from Great Britain, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Romania, and Turkey. The EuroCloud Awards are presented annually at the EuroCloud Congress, where an international and independent Jury selects the winners.

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

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09. ZEROWASTE PRO: a European project to tackle waste in the Mediterranean area (*partner involved: Efxini Poli*)



The project “Promoting Zero Waste” bearing the acronym “ZEROWASTE PRO” was officially launched in July 2013, with the aim of capitalizing on methods and tools for improving waste management schemes at the local and regional level. The project will run until December 2014 and is funded by ERDF and IPA Funds through the European Territorial Cooperation Programme MED 2007-2013 and national resources. The **Lead Partner**, E.G.T.C. EFXINI POLI - Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development, along with the 10 European partners in the project, will focus on three main issues: Prevention, Reuse and Recycling.

The project integrates the best existing results from past experiences, in order to produce final methodologies and tools useful for improving a sustainable and efficient waste management scheme both at public and private level.

Project outputs:

- “Green Guide” for Public Authorities to enhance Reduction, Prevention and Reuse actions.
- Training guides and “Train the Trainers” course on sustainable waste management solutions, in order to concretely transfer knowledge to key figures of the decision making process, also after the end of the project.
- Educational Tool for involving students and teachers in a common awareness campaign on waste prevention.
- Online Networking Platform for sharing a selection of existing documents on waste management developed at international level and for boosting partnership and dialogue between stakeholders.
- “White Paper” for SMEs and Industrial Areas to improve recycling and reduce waste production.
- CO₂ Calculator: an existing tool measuring the CO₂ footprint of the waste management system will be promoted and its related operative manual translated in several languages.
- Periodical newsletter and events at national and international level will support the creation and enhancement of networks and the promotion of the results.

The R4R project will be capitalised in ZEROWASTE PRO, providing support and knowledge with regard to the R4R Online Benchmarking tool which will be further disseminated by the ZEROWASTE PRO partnership to regions and municipalities of the MED Area. The R4R Online Benchmarking tool will be promoted together with other tools which are already in place to help local authorities and regions design their waste management action plans and get aligned with the demands of Agenda 2020.

ZEROWASTE PRO Partners:

- EGTC Efxini Poli-Network of European Cities for Sustainable Development (Lead Partner), Greece
- Research Centre Bistra Ptuj, Slovenia
- Marche Region - Spatial and Environmental Services, Remediation Waste Recycling, Italy
- Svi Med, Euro-Mediterranean Center for Sustainable Development, Italy
- SERDA, Sarajevo Economic Regional Development Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Municipality of Bedekovčina, Croatia
- Ecological Recycling Society, Greece
- Ambiente Italia srl, Italy
- Chamber of Commerce of Marseille, France
- FAMCP, Federation of Regions, Municipalities and Provinces of Aragon, Spain
- WasteServ, Malta

The project ZEROWASTE PRO is part of the European Programme of Territorial Cooperation MED 2007-2013 "Objective 2 EU , Measure 2.1 – Protection and enhancement of natural resources and heritage" and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the IPA fund, and national resources.

- More about [Efxini Poli](#)

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10. EPR scheme for Furniture waste: the state of play in the Île-de-France Region (*partner involved: ORDIF*)

éco-mobilier

A new EPR scheme for Furniture waste has been voted and Éco-mobilier, the French organisation in charge of the new EPR scheme for furniture, was appointed by the end of 2012.

It signed the first convention in June 2013 with the "Syctom", the major waste agency in the Île-de-France region (gathering 5.7 million inhabitants over 84 municipalities, including Paris). The actual collection of furniture in civic amenity centres started last October in the western part of Syctom's territory. **In less than a month, twenty tons of waste have already been collected in only one centre.** A larger scale test is ongoing in this part of the region, also focusing on mobile civic amenity centres.

To set in motion the new EPR scheme, Éco-mobilier's director reminds that all local authorities have the possibility to choose between two options. **The local authority can sign a "territorial contract for furniture collection"** (thus entrusting the management of furniture waste to Éco-Mobilier) or **sign a subsidy contract financing the management of this specific waste stream.**

Both methods have been presented to all local authorities. Éco-mobilier also reminds that the local authorities who choose the subsidy contract have to reach precise environmental standards: **45% recycling by 2015, 80% of recovery by 2017** (including energy recovery) for all types of streams (wood, mattress, plastics, etc.).

Éco-mobilier had to face a much higher demand than foreseen by the local authorities. It now proposes to give the entire subsidy at the beginning of the contract and to set up the collection progressively, increasing it by 20% each year.

- More about [ORDIF](#)

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11. Items from recycling station to economically disadvantaged persons (partner involved: Odense Waste Management Ltd.)



Odense Waste Management Ltd. has made a new agreement with a local centre for socially and economically disadvantaged persons.

The centre collects goods and usable items from the container "Items for direct reuse" at the 8 recycling stations in Odense, and they are very happy to be able to get furniture, movies, books, toys, plates, cups and more. The items are distributed for free to people with an apartment but without money at the moment, such as abused women, refugees and other vulnerable persons.

- More about [Odense Waste Management Ltd.](#)

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REGIONS FOR RECYCLING

