

“Country strategies to move from low levels of recycling to 50 %”

Athens, 3-5 December 2013

The Horizon 2020 Initiative

The “Horizon 2020 Initiative” was endorsed during an Environment Ministerial Conference held in Cairo in 2006 and is also a key initiative run under the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). It 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 wastewater** and **industrial pollution**.

The H2020 Initiative focuses on the following four pillars:

- Identification of *projects* to reduce the most significant sources of pollution.
- Identification of *capacity-building* measures to help neighbouring countries strengthen national administrations and stakeholders in developing and applying environmental laws.
- Use of the EC’s *research* budget to develop greater knowledge of environmental issues relevant to the Mediterranean and ensure this is shared.
- Develop indicators to *monitor* progress.

H2020 has three components with a project currently running under each one: (i) the **Investment** component with the Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme – Project Preparation and Implementation Facility (MeHSIP-PPIF); (ii) the **Capacity Building** component with the H2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme; and (iii) the **Review, Monitoring and Research** component with the ENPI Shared Environmental Information System (ENPI SEIS);

Partner countries

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, [Libya], Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, [Syria].

Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP)

The framework

The Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP) is an EU funded project which runs under the H2020 Initiative and aims at enhancing the capacities to address pollution problems at institutional and society level.

Pollution in the Mediterranean is expected to be substantially reduced through the installation and proper functioning of major infrastructures (e.g. sewage treatment plants), of pollution reduction technologies in industries, etc. However, this won’t work if institutional and individual capacities are not in place. This is what the H2020 CB/MEP aims to enhance by operating within the existing and developing policy instruments, and supporting the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as other regional agreements such as the Barcelona Convention, while cooperating, coordinating and synergising with all relevant Mediterranean (EU and other) programmes.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to address the problems of: low political priority given to the environment; insufficient integration of environment in the different sector policies (agriculture, tourism, transport or energy) and lack of inclusion of the different actors; insufficient capacities and resources at institutional and civil society level. This is achieved through capacity building and awareness raising activities and by promoting integration of environmental issues in other sectors policies.

During the first phase of the project (2009-2012), more than **1900 professionals** from ministries, local authorities, institutions, agencies, NGOs, industries, business organizations, chambers of commerce, universities and research institutes, as well as politicians, journalists, educators, etc. were trained in one or more of the eighty five (85) Horizon 2020 capacity building activities that took place.

Partners

This project is implemented by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) in consortium with the: Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Regional Activity Centres and Programmes (UNEP/MAP and its RACs), National Waste Management Agency (ANGed)/ Regional Solid Waste Exchange of Information and Expertise Network in Mashreq and Maghreb Countries (SWEEPNet), Umweltbundesamt GmbH – Austrian Environment Agency (AEA), Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water - the General Directorate of Hydraulic and Electrical Resources (LMoEW), Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSD), Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), WWF Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF MedPO), Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+), Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA).

Course Description - “Country strategies to move from low levels of recycling to 50 %”

Introduction to the training

The course is organized within the framework of the Horizon 2020 CB/MEP project by the Association of Cities & Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management, with the support of SWEEP-Net and the Tunisian public waste Agency (ANGeD). Its duration is 3 days; the working languages will be English and French. Around 40 participants will participate.

Learning objective

The main objective of the course is to increase the trainees’ understanding of the need to urgently take initiative in the field of Integrated Sustainable Waste & Resource Management (ISWRM) and more particularly in the field of 3 ‘R’ (Reduction, Reuse and Recycling with specific emphasis on recycling) and develop their skills for strategic and creative thinking in order to allow the participants to spread the message and contribute in moving towards a recycling society in their country.

The natural resource base, on which the quality-of-life of our society is built, is in danger of overexploitation and collapse. Worldwide demand on natural resources and related pressures on the environment are steadily increasing. At the same time, extraction of many non-renewable resources is already reaching or near a peak; some authors even describe today’s situation as ‘peak everything’. Very few countries in the Southern and Eastern part of the Mediterranean have fully acknowledged this. Most countries in the region have moved, or are in the process to move, from open dumps/ uncontrolled landfilling to sanitary/ controlled landfilling. There is an urgent need to do more and better. Moving up the waste hierarchy and developing 3’R’ strategy is definitely the way to go. Using the ISWRM methodology it should be possible to reach rather quickly (by 2020) a 50% recycling rate with all economic, environmental and social benefits accompanying such a shift.

Target group

The capacity building activity is targeted to: environmental ministries, departments and institutions, local & regional authority representatives, NGOs and others who are interested in designing, developing and implementing a recycling society using the ISWRM approach. The background level of the trainees is expected to be of an intermediate level.

Methodology and Structure

The course is intended to be participatory and interactive, making use of learning tools such as

- Pre- course/study tour assignment
- Interactive presentations
- Quizzes
- Site visit(s)
- Video lectures/display
- Case studies

Learning outcomes of the course

After the training course the trainees will be able to:

- Understand how to make a diagnostic review of the current status of collection and recycling of municipal waste
- Understand the main challenges while moving from nearly 0 to 50% recycling
- Appraise the key issues (technical, environmental, economic, safety, health, cultural and social) related to recycling
- Appraise the environmental, social and economic benefits of recycling
- Explain the reasoning behind the choices made for a recycling system
- Assessing and clarify the role, responsibility and duties of local authorities regarding the implementation of recycling initiatives

Detailed Programme

	Subject	Description	Duration	Trainer	venue	Method
Day 1: Tuesday 3 December 2013						
9h00 – 10h15	Introductory session	- Welcome and opening speech - Introduction to the programme - Introduction of trainers and participants	1 ¼ hour	Anastasia Roniotes (H2020 CB/MEP) Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)		Interactive
10h15-10h45	Session 1: Introduction to the subject of recycling	Definitions; terminologies; Mediterranean context; recycling principles,...	½ hour	Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)		Interactive presentation
10h45-11h15	Coffee & tea					
11h15-11h45	Session 2 : ISWRM as a tool for improved recycling rates	Life Cycle thinking in municipal waste management; the waste hierarchy; EU and MED country legislation and strategies towards recycling,...	½ hour	Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)		Interactive presentation
11h45-12h30	Session 3 : Current patterns of recycling in the Mediterranean	The recycling patterns in Europe; the recycling patterns in the southern Mediterranean area (case studies presented by participants); the role of the informal sector in recycling; recycling versus landfilling,...	¾ hour	Introduction by Françoise Bonnet (ACR+) + case studies presented by participants		Interactive presentations
12h30-14h00	Lunch break					
14h00-14h45	Session 3: Continued	Continued	¾ hour	Case studies presentations continued		Interactive discussion
14h45-15h15	Session 4: Linking recycling to marine litter	Recycling schemes may have considerable benefits in decreasing marine litter. Link and prospects within the regional plan on marine litter under development by UNEP/ MAP.	½ hour	Umberto Gianolio (AICA)		Presentation
15h15-15h45	Coffee & tea					
15h45-16h45	Session 5: Why recycle minimum 50% of the municipal waste?	What is recycling? Recycling 50% - an easy to achieve target? Resource efficiency, common sense practice; Economic, social and environmental benefits; LCA as a tool to showcase the benefits of recycling,...	1 hour	Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)		Interactive presentation
16h45–17h00		Quiz day 1	¾ hour	Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)		

Day 2: Wednesday 4 December 2013

	Subject	Description	Duration	Trainer	Venue	Method
8h30 – 8h35		Introduction day 2	5 min.	Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)		
8h35 – 10h00	Session 6: Keys to successful 50% recycling (Part 1)	Successful recycling programmes need careful structuring; recycling policy instruments (including EPR,...); know your waste composition and quantities; know your citizens and stakeholders (including the informal sector)– public consultation; how to calculate the recycling potential? How to design a concrete and realistic recycling plan?	1 ½ hour	Bernard De Caebel (RDC)		Interactive presentation
10h00-10h30	Session 7: Lessons learned from the operation of an MBT plant in Athens	Scientific assessment of an MBT plant in Athens	½ hour	Christina Zeri (NKUA)		Interactive presentation
10h30-11h00	Coffee & tea					
11h00-12h00	Travel					

12h00–13h00	Field trip	Visit to EMAK (Mechanical Recycling and Composting Plant) near Athens	1 hour	Company representative and Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)	Field	Learning by viewing
13h00-15h00 Lunch and Travel						
15h00–16h00	Field trip	Visit to The Hellenic Recovery-Recycling Corporation SA (HERRCo) near Athens	1 hour	Recycling company representative and Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)	Field	Learning by viewing
16h00-17h00 Travel						
17h00-18h30	Session 8: Keys to successful 50% recycling (Part 2)	Continued from session 6: including exercise	1 ½ hour	Bernard De Caebel (RDC)		Exercise

Day 3: Thursday 5 December 2013

	Subject	Description	Duration	Trainer	Venue	Method
9h00 – 9h05		Introduction day 3	5 min.	Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)		
9h05-10h30	Session 9: Options for 50% recycling	All waste fractions can be recycled; collection options key for optimal recycling performances; recycling techniques and limitations; selecting the most suitable recycling option(s) for different waste fractions,...	1 ½ hour	Umberto Gianolio & Paolo Marengo (AICA)		Interactive presentation + exercise
10h30-11h00 Coffee & tea						
11h00-11h30	Session 9: continued	Continued	½ hour	Umberto Gianolio & Paolo Marengo (AICA)		Interactive presentation
11h30-12h30	Session 10: Considerations for 50% recycling	Maintain a balance between reduce, prepare for reuse and recycling; awareness raising activities; licensing and permits (including involving the informal sector); costs a cost recovery of recycling schemes; monitoring of recycling performances; calculate the GHG emissions benefits of your recycling programme;...	1 hour	Tim Walker (Belfast City Council)		Interactive presentation + exercise
12h30-14h00 Lunch						
14h00–15h00	Session 10: Continued	Continued	1 hour	Tim Walker (Belfast City Council)		Interactive presentation
15h00-15h30	Session 11 : Markets for recyclables	Markets per waste fraction, evolution of markets and market prices and prospects, initiatives to optimize putting recyclables on the market,...	½ hour	Paolo Marengo (AICA)		Interactive presentation
15h30-16h00 Coffee & tea						
16h00-16h30	Quiz	Final quiz		Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)		Exercise
16h30–17h00	Closure	- Closing remarks - Evaluation of the training - Certificates of attendance	½ hour	Françoise Bonnet (ACR+) Horizon2020 CB/MEP representative		Interactive session

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