



European waste prevention experts shared their views in Brussels

On 28 March, Brussels Environment (IBGE) organized an international workshop for European waste prevention experts. During this event, [Pre-waste partners](#) and about 150 waste prevention stakeholders had the opportunity to share their opinions about key issues regarding waste prevention at local and regional level. They also discussed some of the 50 good practices chosen within the project from the 100 case studies on waste prevention gathered last year.

This one-day event covered subjects such as the **EU context** of local and regional waste prevention planning, the use of **indicators, regulatory and economic waste prevention instruments**. It also included parallel sessions where the participants had the possibility to go deeper in the matter regarding **sustainable consumption, production and lifestyles, packaging, rental/repair/reuse and food wastage**.

At mid-day, a “poster session” was organized, where participants were able to ask more information to Pre-waste partners about a selection of good practices and waste prevention plans in Europe, exhibited in poster format. The presentations and other outputs of the conference can be [downloaded from this webpage](#).

Following the Pre-waste workshop, the second **awards ceremony of the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR)** took place to reward the best awareness raising actions about waste prevention implemented during the EWWR 2010. The EWWR is a 3-year project (2009-2011) co-financed by the Life+ programme.

More information is available from on the [EWWR website](#). ■



2 Local events to learn more about Pre-waste and waste prevention in Europe

In order to share their expertise and the progress of the project at a local and regional level, **Pre-waste partners are organizing several events in their countries in 2011**. During these seminars, conferences and workshops, participants will have the possibility to learn more and discuss about waste prevention, its main stakes and the solutions proposed by the Pre-waste project. During the first semester

2011, Sofia (Bulgaria) and Tampere (Finland) are the places where such events are set up.

On 11th March, in **Tampere**, Tampere Regional Solid Waste Management (TRSWM) and EcoFellows organized the closing event of the 2010-2011 **“Reel Time” film festival**, where thirteen movies about responsible consumption and waste prevention were shown to the public. After showing the movies, a **seminar on the topic “Is happiness without material just an utopia?”** took place.

Also this semester, Sofia Municipality is organizing its **First Regional Conference on Municipal Waste Prevention and Management Policies, on 2nd and 3rd June in Sofia**. The aim of the conference is to throw some light on Bulgarian policies about waste prevention and management. The conference will be attended by representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Sofia Municipality experts, as well as representatives of the European Investment Bank and of the European Commission. More information: Ms. Katya Valkova (k.valkova@sofia.bg). ■



3 Pre-waste partners go deeper in their waste prevention good practices and indicators

Dematerialization in offices in Belgium, bulk sales in Italy, food wastage prevention in the UK, ban on disposable dishes in Germany, eco-tax in Romania... In October 2010, partner experts jointly selected some **50 good practices of particular interest** among 100 case studies related to waste prevention they had identified. For these good practices, more complete data are being gathered by

the partners, in particular in terms of results and other indicators. Moreover, similar initiatives will be compared to better understand differences in approaches and territorial specificities.

On 28 March 2011, the **International Pre-waste workshop in Brussels** organized by Brussels Environment gave the opportunity to European players involved in waste prevention to exchange experiences, notably on the 50 or so good practices identified. By June 2011, the data will be made available online for the public in the form of 50 detailed fact-sheets. Each partner will later choose one or several of these good practices and carry out a feasibility study to implement them locally. Indicators will be developed to provide concrete recommendations. Moreover, the 20 best cases of these good practices will be identified and, for some of them, tested as key reference initiatives at European level in 2012. In parallel, **ORDIF analyzed waste prevention indicators** used in the past (or gathered by the partners) concerning their waste prevention case studies, and **proposed a framework** for monitoring resource use, results, and impacts of such initiatives.

Regarding **resources indicators**, the framework includes for instance financial aspects (direct and indirect costs, etc.), staff and tools (composting bins, communication tools, etc.) involved in the process. **Results indicators** include in particular participation to the action (awareness raised and active participation), waste quantities and toxicity avoided. **Impact indicators** cover economical, environmental and social impacts. One of the first comments from this analysis was that less than fifty percent of the case studies included monitoring data and few were related to impact indicators (more on resource and results than on impacts). ■

4 Waste prevention hard workers in Central and Eastern Europe: focus on Sofia Municipality and Ilfov County

4



Having joined the European Union in 2007 has obliged Romania and Bulgaria to catch up with European legal requirements in a short time frame, even though a transition period was set up after their accession. It is particularly true with European environmental law and especially waste issues, with multiple - and sometimes old - sources of obligations. Therefore, waste prevention, clearly instituted by the 2008 Waste Framework Directive as the highest level in the waste management hierarchy, might be considered far from local priorities. Nevertheless, Sofia Municipality (Bulgaria) and Ilfov County (Romania) are proving that waste prevention is indeed one of their major concerns.

Sofia Municipality has been active for several years in the field of waste prevention: it provided the Pre-waste project with **more than ten practices** related to the prevention of waste generation **successfully implemented on its territory since 2006**. For all of these practices, assessments and analyses were made in order to clarify the process of implementation and gave findings concerning the implementation of national and municipal waste management legislation. In return to its contribution, the participation of Sofia Municipality in Pre-waste will afford a good opportunity to **transfer good practices to its territory** and to other Bulgarian municipalities. With this regards, Sofia Municipality expects to be involved in the global European process of Resource Efficiency by reducing the use of raw materials in parallel with supporting sustainable economic growth. It also expects that its participation to Pre-waste will help to contribute to the development of municipal and regional waste prevention policy, as well to create good conditions for dissemination of good waste prevention practices throughout Bulgaria.

Ilfov County is located in the southern part of the Romania, in the Romanian plain surrounding the capital city Bucharest, and covers a population of 283 409 inhabitants. Ilfov includes 8 towns and 32 communes (101 villages). For years, Ilfov County has faced the issue of dealing with the disposal of a significant part of the capital's waste generation.

Ilfov County contributed to the project by proposing **four case studies**, including a good practice related to an eco-tax on plastic bags in force since 2009. On top of the good practices proposed and the national event that will be organized in 2011, Ilfov County will set up an **interregional training session in October in Bucharest**. During this training session, experts from regional and local authorities will be informed about the 50 good practices identified by the Pre-waste partners in order to assess their transferability in the partners' territories. The training modules will then be published on the Pre-waste website for other European public authorities.

According to Ilfov's representatives, "despite our lack of experience in the field, we are eager to assimilate as much

knowledge and as many good practices as possible from our project partners”. Ilfov County’s main expectations are the drafting of a methodology for waste management implementation, a methodology for the elaboration of the waste prevention plan, some good practices that could be implemented in Ilfov’s region, at the level of waste prevention, as well as the drawing up of indicators and a calculation methodology for them, which can be easily applied.

In addition, in a coordinated move, representatives of both Sofia and Ilfov participated to the “Waste prevention and management” workshop, which took place on 2 December 2010 as part of the INTERREG IVC “Instruction for use seminar” in Ruse (Bulgaria). ■

The Pre-waste project in a few words

5



Pre-waste is a three-year European project (2010-2012) supported by the INTERREG IV C programme and involving ten partners throughout Europe. Its aim is to help local and regional authorities improve their waste prevention policies, in order to significantly reduce the production of waste, and its hazards. In particular, the project will deliver:

- a common methodology for developing efficient regional waste prevention policies, in terms of planning, implementation and monitoring;
- some 20 best examples of actions for waste prevention implemented in the European Union by local or regional authorities;
- pertinent indicators and a web tool to enable assessment and monitoring of these waste prevention actions. ■

PARTNER'S AGENDA

24-27/05/2011	Green Week 2011 “Resource efficiency - Using less, living better”, Brussels (Belgium)
2-3/06/2011	Regional conference on waste prevention, Sofia (Bulgaria) - more information: Ms. Katya Valkova (k.valkova@sofia.bg)
14-16/06/2011	Pre-waste meeting and press conference, Karlskrona (Sweden) - more information: Mr Kenneth Gyllensting (Kenneth.Gyllensting@karlskrona.se)
13/09/2011	Bio-waste prevention expert conference (Miniwaste project), Brno (Czech Republic) - more information: Mr Philippe Micheaux Naudet (pmn@acrplus.org)
October 2011	Joint interregional training session, Bucharest (Romania)
November 2011	Pre-waste meeting and press conference, Sofia (Bulgaria)

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