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ASOCIACIÓN
DE CIUDADES
Y REGIONES PARA
EL RECICLAJE
Y LA GESTIÓN
SOSTENIBLE
DE LOS RECURSOS

Press Release

Seville, 17 March 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Growing a sustainable food strategy for more circular economy in cities and regions

The process of co-constructing guidelines on sustainable food strategies started on 15 March 2016 in Seville during a workshop of the Circular Europe Network that involved experts from public authorities, universities and several national or regional platforms on circular economy.

Seville, Spain – The 4th workshop of the [Circular Europe Network](#) (CEN) organised on 15 March 2016 in Seville by the [Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management](#) (ACR+) gave the opportunity to **co-construct methodological guidance on sustainable food systems in relation to circular economy**. This topic of sustainable food was also addressed during the international conference “Now, the Circular Economy”, co-organised by ACR+ and its member [Fundación para la Economía Circular](#) on 16 and 17 March, also in Seville.

The food production-consumption chain has many impacts, even before the seeds are sown in the field and after the food arrives on our plate. **A third of the food produced globally is lost or wasted¹**, generating unnecessary resource use (land, crops and fertiliser, water and energy). Considering the **high price of food products at global level²** and the fact that **over 800 million people in the world suffer from hunger**, this is an unacceptable situation. Several other issues are to be taken into account when speaking about food systems including, among others, citizens' health, jobs in the food sector, fair prices for the food chain actors, access to quality food, and cultural aspects.

Within the CEN, ACR+ strives **to support local and regional authorities in being ambitious with regard to circular economy** and wishes, therefore, to **help them adopt strategies for the main sectors including food systems**. During the CEN workshop in Seville, **ACR+ and its members³** also shared expertise with other participants from **regional authorities and agencies, the academic**

¹ FAO, 2011, Global food losses and food waste – Extent, causes and prevention

² In 2015 the average price for the main food products was on average 150% of the price registered 15 years ago. Source: FAO Food Price Index

³ ACR+ members who took part in this workshop: the Catalan Waste Agency (ES), LIPOR (PT), AMIU Genova (IT), Brussels Environment (BE), the Foundation for Circular Economy (HU), the Circular Economy Foundation (ES), Espace Environnement (BE)



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sector and experts from platforms active in circular economy. The future CEN guidelines, which should be published by the end of 2016, will **clarify the concept of sustainable food systems** and **propose key steps and elements** to include in local or regional sustainable food strategies. In addition to working on these guidelines, ACR+ is drafting and publishing good practice factsheets related to sustainable food within the [CEN database](#) that recently published its 100th case.

ACR+ will continue to work on the food issue during the whole year, in particular with several virtual and physical meetings of the Circular Europe Network, as well as by making sustainable food systems the main topic of **ACR+ General Assembly in Malta on 31 May 2016, with the participation of the EU Commissioner for Environment Karmenu Vella.**

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The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management (ACR+) is an international network of members in EU 28 and EU neighbourhood countries who share the aim of promoting smart resource consumption and production and sustainable management of waste mainly through prevention at source, reuse and recycling. The association has about 90 members, mainly local and regional authorities, representing approximately 1100 municipalities, as well as NGO's, academics and private sector. In 2015, ACR+ published general guidelines on circular economy strategy planning at local or regional level, available in several languages for its members.

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