

# ISWA-RDN

THE SOUTHEAST EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL NETWORK

**UPCOMING ISWA EVENTS**

**UPCOMING RDN EVENTS**

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# message from the Secretariat

**Dear Friends,**

The period 25<sup>th</sup> of May - 3<sup>th</sup> of July was full of RDN events!

International conferences, technical visits and business meetings were organized in Hungary (25/28 of May), Republic of Moldova (3/6 of June), Greece (11/13 of June) and Romania (1/3 of July).

At the conference of ISWA Romania were organized business meetings of ISWA Moldova representatives (MOLDSWA) with representatives of companies from Romania (ten companies), Italy (two companies), Greece (one company), Germany (two companies), Hungary (two companies) and Serbia (one company).

FKF (ISWA Hungary) has become a member of our RDN!

Our special session at ISWA Congress 2015 is finalized and presented on the Congress website (Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of September: Waste management in South East Europe). It will be our possibility to present in one session what we have done and what we have to do in the future in order to implement EU Directives on waste management taking into consideration the local conditions of each country.

It is better to do this in a special session, than in different sessions, and we have to thanks to the organizers Mr. Philip Heylen and Mr. Christof Delatter not only for the special session but also for the low registration fees for our participation at the Congress.

Your support has been much needed and much appreciated!

I would like to thanks to all the organizers, speakers and participants at the RDN events in Hungary, Moldova, Greece and Romania.

We have total support from ISWA Board members and ISWA General Secretariat to achieve all the targets from our RDN Work Program 2015.

In this respect from now on I will present in each issue people that help us and Ms. Kata Tisza from ISWA General Secretariat open this list!

Please pay attention to all articles in the newsletter but especially to the article "*No EU funds to re-municipalise Central and Eastern Europe*".

I know Mr. Peter Hodacek from over ten years, since he was working for AVE Austria and I had many discussions with him regarding the implementation of EU Directives in Central and Eastern Europe.

In this document we can find some answers to the questions that we asked ourselves from many years!

Enjoy the summer vacation!

*See you in Antwerp!*

*Best Regards,*

*Dr. Eng. Alexei Atudorei*

*Representative of Regional Development Network Southeast Europe, Middle East and Mediterranean*

## ISWA-WMRAS-NEA Seminar on Waste-to-Energy 2015

### Programme

In its 2nd run after a successful launch in 2014, the ISWA-WMRAS-NEA Seminar on Waste-to-Energy is a unique programme that combines the technical and policy expertise of senior experts from Europe and Singapore with extensive waste-to-energy (WTE) projects development and implementation experience.

### Course Objectives

The training programme is structured to cover the technical, economic and environmental aspects of developing WTE facilities. This includes studying the characteristics of high performance energy efficient plants, learning the best available techniques for plant operations and visiting state-of-the-art WTE facilities. Participants will also gain a better appreciation of environmental policies conducive for WTE developments, viable business models for WTE projects as well as insights into market opportunities for waste management projects in Asia.

### Who Should Attend

The seminar is designed for waste management professionals, engineers, technical experts, research experts and business development professionals seeking to address waste management challenges in the context of fast growing cities in Asia

*More information: [www.iswa.org](http://www.iswa.org)*

## ISWA Beacon Conference: 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Final Sinks

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Final Sinks, will be held on August 23-26, 2015 in Taipei, Taiwan. The Conference is jointly organized by the National Taiwan University, Vienna University of Technology, and International Solid Waste Association (ISWA).

Final sinks have become a critical issue for sustainable material use. The linear throughputs of materials are depleting resources and are a stress on available sinks. For sustainable materials management, we need a broader understanding and new solutions for the production, management and disposal of harmful and non-recyclable material.

Extending the scope from the 1st and 2nd Final Sink Conferences, this meeting will go beyond landfilling and address wider topics. Both theoretical analyses as well as case studies focusing on the sink issue in the widest sense are welcome.

The Conference is intended for companies with extended producer responsibilities, designers of sustainable products, waste management and recycling companies, administrators in the fields of waste management, landfilling and environmental protection, consultants in the fields of waste and environmental management, experts from academia and research & development institutions, and others.

*More information: [www.iswa.org](http://www.iswa.org)*

## ISWA CONGRESS 2015

### 'LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF OUR RESOURCES AND WASTE!'

7 - 9 September 2015, Antwerp, Flanders / Belgium

The city of Antwerp and Interafval look forward to welcoming you at the ISWA World Congress 2015 in Flanders/Belgium! The results of the Flemish waste and resources policy are impressive. Many waste management companies are making the area around Antwerp a showcase of best practices and trend-setting technologies. The organizers, backed by the industry and in close cooperation with the Board of ISWA, aim to make this congress in Antwerp a **memorable success**. ISWA 2015 Antwerp will guarantee a balanced mix of **internationally renowned keynote speakers, representatives of institutions and agencies worldwide** that determine waste and materials policy, interesting insights into the latest scientific and technological developments in the sector, and above all, a lot of opportunities for **networking** and **exchange of experience**.

Plenary Opening Ceremony: "*Waste management at a turning point*" will take place between 13.30 - 15.00, with the participation of:

- Minister-President Geert Bourgeois on behalf of the Flemish government: Why Flanders is leading the way within Europe on waste and resource management
  - Minister in Singapore, Grace Fu: Challenges of a megacity, characterized by fast economic growth and lack of space
  - David Newman, president of ISWA: vision of waste management sector
  - Philip Heylen on behalf of the organizing committee sets the tone for the World Congress 2015 and with a special performance of the Royal Ballet of Flanders and several international artists.
- Moderated by Nathalie Delporte.*

A special keynote session dedicated to the problems of waste management in South East Europe will be organized on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of September: Waste management in South East Europe**:

- 13,30 - 13,40 - General Issues of ISWA RDN Members, Dr. Alexei Atudorei - ISWA Board Member;
- 13,40 - 13,55 - Waste Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Dragisa Marjanovic, BASWA President;
- 13,55 - 14,10 - Present status of Waste Management in Republic of Croatia, Prof. Aleksandra Anic Vucinic, President of CROWMA;
- 14,10 - 14,25 - Municipal Waste Management in Greece: Current State, Trends and Perspectives, Christos Tsompanidis, HSWMA Vice President for International Relations;
- 14,25 - 14,40 - Municipal Waste Management in FYROM, Daniela Nelepa, President of MASWA;
- 14,40 - 14,55 - Waste management in Romania. Funding of waste management infrastructure during 2007 - 2020 and optimization of municipal solid waste infrastructure in the light of circular economy measures (Mihai Gabriel Ghinea, Alexei Atudorei, Vasile Soporan, Luminita Gabriela Atudorei), Mihai Gabriel Ghinea, Member of STC - ARS;
- 14,55 - 15,05 - Circular Economy Between Necessity and Reality, Prof. Goran Vujic, Member of SESWA Board;
- 15,05 - 15,15 - Evolutions in European waste legislation: the recycling of the Circular Economy Package, Vanya Veras, MWE, Municipal Waste Europe;
- 15,15 - 15,20 - ISWA Congress 2016, Novi Sad, Prof. Goran Vujic, SESWA;
- 15,20 - 15,30 - Questions/Conclusions.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina (22/24 of September 2015)**

**Topics:** Sustainable development of communal utility companies, landfill and other companies included in Solid Waste Management in Southeast Europe

*Please contact Mr. Dragisa Marjanovic  
info.baswa@yahoo.com*

### **Republic of Macedonia (15/16 of October, 2015)**

**Topics:** legislation, policies, strategies, planning, separate collection and transportation, sorting, composting, landfill, communication

*Please contact Ms. Daniela Nelepa  
president@masva.org, contact@maswa.org*

## Study tour to Waste Management Center in Szeged, Hungary

Solid Waste Association - BASWA, Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized a Study tour to Szeged, Hungary in May 2015 for its members.

The aim of the visit was a tour around the Waste Management Center in Szeged. Participants had a chance to be introduced with communal waste and non-hazardous waste management in the Region of Szeged, which has approximately 300.000 users of communal services.

The Waste Management Center is equipped with modern technology for treatment of communal waste, landfill gas, composting of bio-degradable waste, as well as the system for construction waste recycling.

Participants had an opportunity to find out more about numerous advantages of waste recycling. In addition, different possibilities of usage of diverse technologies were considered.

A model of treatment of landfill gas utilization technology was presented on the premises. The technology use landfill gas for production of electricity and the power generator in amount of 1,2 MW.

The participants on this Study visit were from the whole BiH, mainly managers from regional landfills and utility companies that collect and transport communal waste.

In general, Study tour was very successful. Participants gained knowledge and experience in the area of solid waste management. The event also strengthened connections between the managers in the sector of solid waste management from Hungary and BiH.



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, BUDAPEST, 27 MAY, 2015 - 'MOVING AWAY FROM LANDFILL & INCINERATION: CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN PRACTICE'



***Every year for the request of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, the National Waste Management Directorate (former National Waste Management Agency of Hungary) organises the most significant conference of the Hungarian waste management industry entitled "New approaches to the Hungarian national waste management".***

***In 2015 for the first time it was amended with the "Moving away from landfill & incineration: circular economy in practice" international conference held on 27th of May in Budapest for which the most relevant international and Hungarian professional waste related organisations and authorities were invited.***

***The more than 300 participants represented 22 different countries.***

The international conference was hosted by Zsolt V. Németh, the State Secretary for Environmental Affairs, Agricultural Development and Hungaricums who opened the one-day-long event. His opening speech was followed by the presentation of Lajos Búsi, the Director-General of the National Inspectorate for Environment and Nature in which he demonstrated the new structure of the Hungarian waste management system the recent years' cardinal changes of which fosters the development of a "recycling society". He strongly reminded the audience that "the age of wasting has to be over", the organisers would like to raise awareness on this.

The DG Environment of the European Commission was represented by Ms Anna Karamat who presented the Commissions perspective on the concept of circular economy. As it turned out, this year the organization has engaged in several professional consultations in order to create a coherent European action plan, planned to be published in autumn 2015. The expected package will provide guidance on measures in favour of sustainable development: not only focusing on waste management (product design, extraction, production, transportation, consumption) a more ambitious approach will be announced and it will better take into account the starting point and situation of the less developed countries.

Based on what were said at the conference the conclusion could be drawn that the promoting of waste reduction and reuse could be achieved through the implementation of individual and local actions. This statement was also strengthened by the presentation of Françoise Bonnet, the secretary general of ACR+, from which it turned out the local and regional authorities (the local decision makers) have the competence to deploy tailor made legal and economic instruments to reach the aforementioned common goal. A change in attitude can be promoted at local level through many facilitators: conscious planning, green public procurement, reuse centres, separate waste collection and recycling, monitoring control, subsidies and local taxes.

The situation of circular economy in Hungary was introduced by Mr. Zoltán Tibor László, the deputy head of department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Demonstrating the Hungarian

standpoint he highlighted the primary importance of prevention, the promotion of the use of secondary raw materials (green public procurement, support of the waste market, certification of products made from waste), the extension of Eco-design Directive to the most environmentally harmful products (requirements of product repair, questions of reuse and recycling).

The issues of implementing the Concept of Circular Economy in ISWA-RDN Southeast Europe, Middle East and Mediterranean Area were introduced by Alexei Atudorei Dr., ISWA RDN representative and ISWA Board Member. As he stated before the introduction of the circular economy model it is advised to assess the conditions of the individual Member States and European countries, for example the waste management system of the United Kingdom - based on a recent study - currently meet the requirements of circular economy principle only in 20 %.

This raises the question that an Eastern European country is ready for this level of change? This question is even emphasised if we take a look at the fact that whilst as a EU average 31 % of the municipal solid waste is landfilled (28% - recycled, 26% incinerated and 15% composted), for example in Romania this figure was 97% (and only 3% is recycled).

ISWA-RDN countries are not prepared for implementation of "circular economy concept" and should continue to implement ISWA systems. For the transition to a circular economy there are several requirements to be fulfilled: appropriate Legislative framework, capacity building to raise expertise, waste management planning, business friendly frameworks to encourage investments, efficient measures for financing and awareness raising to motivate inhabitants.

During the second part of the conference several practical examples were introduced related to the concept of 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) and sustainability. Examples were shown for instance from Albania, Brussels, Hungary, Portugal, Italy and Slovenia.

The European Week for Waste Reduction initiative was also demonstrated to the audience. The European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) is an initiative aiming to promote the implementation of awareness-raising actions about sustainable resource and waste management during a single week - last full week of November. It encourages a wide range of audiences (public authorities, private companies, civil society as well as citizens themselves) to get involved. The actions implemented in the EWWR address the "3Rs": Reduce waste, Reuse products, Recycle materials. Actions were introduced from Catalonia, Italy, Brussels and Hungary.

The participants could get to know the future and already ongoing developments of the waste management system of Budapest with environmentally-friendly technologies and the experiences of the recently implemented door-to-door separate collection was also presented.

The presentation of Simone Orsi introduced the experience in Milan based on which it could be stated intensive and extensive source separation of food waste can be introduced with excellent results in large cities and high population density areas, capturing significant amounts of material with low contamination making it suitable for an efficient organic recovery process through anaerobic digestion and composting.

Janko Kramžar the director of the public company SNAGA, the largest waste management company in Slovenia demonstrated their efforts to achieve the zero waste strategy. In Ljubljana where currently 61% of MSW is recycled, by 2025 this target is 75% and they have a deliberate intention to decrease the disposal to less than 30 kg of waste per person. SNAGA could achieve real success in awareness raising in the last ten years as a result of which the separately collected waste from 16 kg could be increased to 145 kg/capita/year.

All the presentations of the professional forum are available on the conference website.

At the end of the conference as a closing event the European Week for Waste Reduction awards ceremony was organised to award the best actions realised during the Week 2014.

According to the feedbacks from the conference on spot and since then, with its extraordinary attention and participant's number coming from 22 different countries - the conference has been a real success.

## MEETING BETWEEN ISWA-RDN AND ISWA HUNGARY, 26 OF MAY, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



FKF Nonprofit Zrt., as one of the largest waste management and street cleansing company in Hungary, is present in approximately 2 million households. In addition the Company deals with the collection and treatment of waste generated by business,s organizations and cleans all public areas in the capital. FKF Nonprofit Zrt. has been in the services of the residents of Budapest for more than a century.

Its legal predecessor, Public Sanitation Agency, was founded on the 25th of July, 1895. The Company has always aimed at keeping pace with technological developments as we are intent on meeting all

requirements in the domain of waste management which has a great influence on the environment.

FKF Nonprofit Zrt. also operates one of the most modern waste-to-energy plants in Europe where electricity and district heat are produced by the energy recovery from several hundred thousand tons of deposited waste. Nurturing of our professional international relationships contributed to our ability to follow international trends and provide our customers with the highest service level possible. FKF is in close contact with a number of international street cleansing companies, and - as one of the founders - is, also, the Hungarian National Member of the International Solid Waste Association.

In May, 26, took place a meeting, at FKF office in Budapest, attended by Miss Kata Tiszax) (ISWA General Secretariat), Mr. Alexei Atudorei (ISWA Board Member), Mr. Uhri Laszlo (FKF - Head of International Relations Department) and Mr. Hegedus Andras Istvan (PR and Marketing Team Leader and Secretary of ISWA Hungary).

Mr. Alexei Atudorei presented the aims of ISWA Regional Development Network (promoting sustainable waste management in the Region, networking for solving local and specific problems) and the benefits of countries located in Eastern Europe and ISWA National Members, to become members of ISWA Regional Development Network (ISWA-RDN).

In Hungary, in 2013, from the total amount of 378 kg of MW generated per person, 21% was recycled, 5% composted, 9% incinerated and 65% landfilled. In other RDN countries the percentage of disposal is over 80%. Experience of ISWA Hungary in implementing modern and sustainable waste management systems can be an example for other RDN's members and that is why is important for ISWA Hungary to become a member of ISWA-RDN and to share the experience. After the meeting the members of ISWA Hungary Board took the decision to join ISWA-RDN and in 3th of June sent an application to ISWA General Secretariat to become member of ISWA-RDN.

*Thank you Kata for your support!*

*Thank you ISWA Hungary for your understanding and interest!*



*x) Kata Tizsa - ISWA General Secretariat - Technical Manager*

*"Environmental protection and specifically solid waste management have always been among Kata's core interests. As a project manager in recycling she planned and implemented investment projects for a Hungarian waste management company and travelled throughout Europe for various missions. Kata has an MSc degree in agricultural engineering from Hungary and another MSc in environmental engineering and science from the United States. She also worked as a research and teaching assistant and was also heavily involved in cross-cultural mentorship of students and various sustainability projects. As one of the Technical Managers in the ISWA General Secretariat Team since January 2015, Kata is responsible for the management of ISWA technical programmes and projects, cooperation with international organizations, local governments and other external entities, waste & climate change issues and the ISWA RDN for Southeast Europe, Middle East and the Mediterranean. She is greatly excited to support the development of this RDN in close cooperation with the ISWA RDN Representative, Dr. Alexei Atudorei."*

## MEETING AT MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, Chisinau, Moldova, 4 of June, 2015



Members of ISWA, ISWA Romania (ARS) and ISWA Moldova (MOLDSWA) had a meeting at Ministry of Environment from Republic of Moldova, on 4 of June, with Mr. Lazar Chirica, Vice Minister and Mrs. Svetlana Bolocan, Head of Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Directorate.

The delegation was led by Dr. Alexei Atudorei (ISWA) and Mr. Tudor Lefter (MOLDSWA).

Dr. Alexei Atudorei presented the missions and objectives of ISWA and the activities performed in the last two years in the RDN Region.

An important result is the setting of MOLDSWA as the national professional association for solid waste management in 2014 and confirmation of MOLDSWA as ISWA National Member at ISWA Congress 2014, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Mr. Tudor Lefter emphasized the very good relations of MOLDSWA with the Ministry and mentioned that in the Agreement signed in March 2015, between MOLDSWA and Ministry of Environment, are included some of ISWA missions: promoting resource efficiency through sustainable production and consumption, advancement of waste management through education and training and promoting appropriate and best available technologies and practices.

Mr. Lazar Chirica presented the implementation status of EU legislation and specific objectives of Republic of Moldova for the period 2015 - 2018 and mentioned that the present issues (institutional arrangements suffer gaps and inconsistencies, weak enforcement capacities, limited monitoring and data collection and consultation procedures) can be solved through a strong and continuous collaboration with all the ISWA members and especially with ISWA-RDN members.

The delegation was made up from representatives of important Romanian companies involved in waste management as are Klarwin, Iridex Group, Teamnet, CTE Solutions and Ecologic 3 R.

All members of the delegation expressed their interest for future cooperation with central and local administration and to share knowledge and experience in sustainable waste management and climate change mitigation in order to develop waste management sector in compliance with EU Directives, but considering all the local specific conditions from Republic of Moldova.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 'WASTE AND RESOURCES SYNERGY TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN GREECE AND MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES', ATHENS, 12th of June, 2015

Hellenic Solid Waste Management Association (HSWMA), ISWA National Member, has organized an International Conference "Waste and Resources Synergies towards a Circular Economy in Greece and Mediterranean Countries", on 12.06.2015 in Athens/Greece, conference supported by the "Regional Development Network (RDN) Southeast Europe, Middle East and Mediterranean" of ISWA.

*The circular economy is defined as an economic model that produces virtually no waste, with raw materials being re-used and recycled continually within a closed loop.*



EU targets are:

- a 70% recycling target for municipal waste by 2030;
- an 80% recycling target for packaging, such as glass, paper, metal and plastic by 2030;
- and a ban on landfilling of all recyclable and biodegradable waste by 2025.

and lists a series of "aspirational" goals, which are not legally enforceable:

- a phase out of landfilling of all recoverable waste by 2030;
- a 30% reduction of waste by 2025;
- and a 30% fall in marine litter by 2020.

In Athens, different aspects of waste management and circular economy (concept, economic model, tool for development, dream, utopia...) were discussed by participants from Greece, Romania, FYROM, Serbia, Portugal, Italy and Germany (universities and industry) and ISWA representatives (Mr. David Newman, Mr. Antonis Mavropoulos, Mr. Joachim Quoden and Mr. Marco Ricci-Juergensen, Mr. Alexei Atudorei).

During the conference, specific aspects of waste management and circular economy concept at global level were presented by:

- Mr. David Newman - Waste, Resources and Volatility

During his presentation it was mentioned the most important lessons from history:

*Waste management costs money and good systems take 10-20-30 years to build.*

*The question is: how can we all afford it? Currently, no in developing countries; and here?*

*Does recycling pay for this? Generally and currently no, it is subsidised.*

*What price do we put on environment and health protection?*

*The higher the price, the better the system, so quality is a function of wealth.*

*Do we need taxes and subsidies to counter market volatility? Yes through EPR for example*

Mr. Antonis Mavropoulos - Circular Economy and Future of Waste Management, specific aspects of waste management and circular economy concept in EU by:

- Mr. Joachim Quoden - Extended Producer's Responsibility (EPR) as a Tool to Reach Circular Economy;
- Mr. Marco Ricci-Juergensen - Optimization of Separate Collection of Food Waste for Recycling in the View of Circular Economy;
- Mr. Alexandre Ventura - The Circular Economy in the Integrated Waste Management of Lipor, Portugal;
- Mr. Vagner Maringolo - Cement and Concrete: Our Contribution on the Circular Economy

specific aspects of waste management and circular economy concept in Greece were presented by:

- Mr. Christos Tsompanidis - Circular Economy - A tool for Development in Greece and Mediterranean Countries;
- Mrs. Rozy Charitopoulou - Recycling as the key factor toward a Circular Economy;
- Mr. Konstantin Aravossis - The role of ecoefficiency for Industrial Companies in Circular Economy;
- Mr. Lampros Bouklis - Developing Circular Economy Business and Decision Making Models;
- Mr. Damianos Bourkas - The new National Waste Management Plan of Greece;
- Mr. Nikos Aslanoglou - The Circular Economy of Polygonal logic and Citizens Society, and specific

aspects of waste management and circular economy concept in ISWA-RDN by:

- Mr. Alexei Atudorei, ISWA - Activities of ISWA-RDN
- Ms. Bojana Tot (Serbia) - Circular Economy: between necessity and reality;
- Mrs. Anita Andreevska (FYROM) - Establishing Integrated Waste Management Plan in FYROM;
- Mr. Gabriel Mihai Ghinea (Romania) - Implementation of ISWM in Romania - Case Studies

The high level and interest of all presentations made all the participants wiser on this topic, and is one more step to the further development of this critical sector and to the strengthening of our relations and cooperation in RDN Region and EU.

More information: [www.eedsa.gr](http://www.eedsa.gr)



## THE 5<sup>th</sup> ARS - ISWA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, MAMAIA 2015 ( June 30<sup>th</sup> - July 3<sup>rd</sup> )

ARS - Asociatia Romana de Salubritate (ISWA Romania) and ISWA-RDN have organized the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of their Conference together.

The subject was "The sustainability and the performance of the waste management systems implemented in Romania between 2007-2015, as foundation for the next schedule; development prospects to 2020".

This year we again had remarkable guests participating from various countries and from Romania, which together have got involved in an exhaustive analysis of waste management industry issues.

For three days, between June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 90 participants took part in interesting debates and discussions, met business partners and opened to new partnerships full of potential and successful possibilities.

Mr Viorel Marcu - ARS Executive Director, Mr Dumitru Mihalache - ARS President have spoken at the opening session.

So did Mr Alexei Atudorei - Head of RDN, whom in the end passed on a message from Mr David Newman - ISWA President and also has listed some stages of future development for RDN.

The actual discussions started on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, with a presentation by JASPERS representative, Jean Tilly, underlying the two main targets for the next development stage in Romania for waste management: recycling to increase up to minimum 50% until 2020 and biodegradable waste disposal resulting from waste treatment to decrease by at least 35% until 2016.

All the guests from different countries have been extremely interesting from the point of view of new info and of the exposed waste management structures. Jorg Eckardt, Managing Director of the German company Baumgarte Boiler Systems GmbH (part of JFE Engineering Group) has presented viable solutions for obtaining energy from waste.

# 30 iunie - 3 iulie 2015 Mamaia, România

**ISWA**

## ARS în parteneriat cu ISWA

organizează a V-a ediție a conferinței comune cu tema:

**Sustenabilitatea și performanța sistemelor de management al deșeurilor implementate în România, în perioada 2007 - 2015, bază pentru următoarea perioadă de programare. Perspectivele dezvoltării până în anul 2020.**

Nemanja Stanisavljevic, Serbian Solid Waste Association (SeSWA) and Environment Engineering Department of the Faculty of Technical Sciences from Novi Sad University, has presented "Future prospects for waste management in the countries preparing for EU - Serbia Case study."

Ciro Frisoli and Daniele Cocca, of Geom. Ciro Frisoli & C. Sas have spoken about "Geom. Ciro Frisoli company's European patent - Retaining structures within waste landfills".

On Thursday the 2nd July, more than 30 participants, including A.N.R.S.C and Environmental Guard representatives, have taken the opportunity offered to them, of a technical visit, organized with the support of Iridex Group, to a developing site for a new landfill, having the chance to also see how the old deposit gets covered and a transfer station too, all in Medgidia area.

Romanian and foreign business partners have met with Mr Valeriu Gherbovet, MOLDSWA President and Mr Tudor Lefter, MOLDSWA Board Chairman (the organization presently has an ongoing collaboration with ARS).

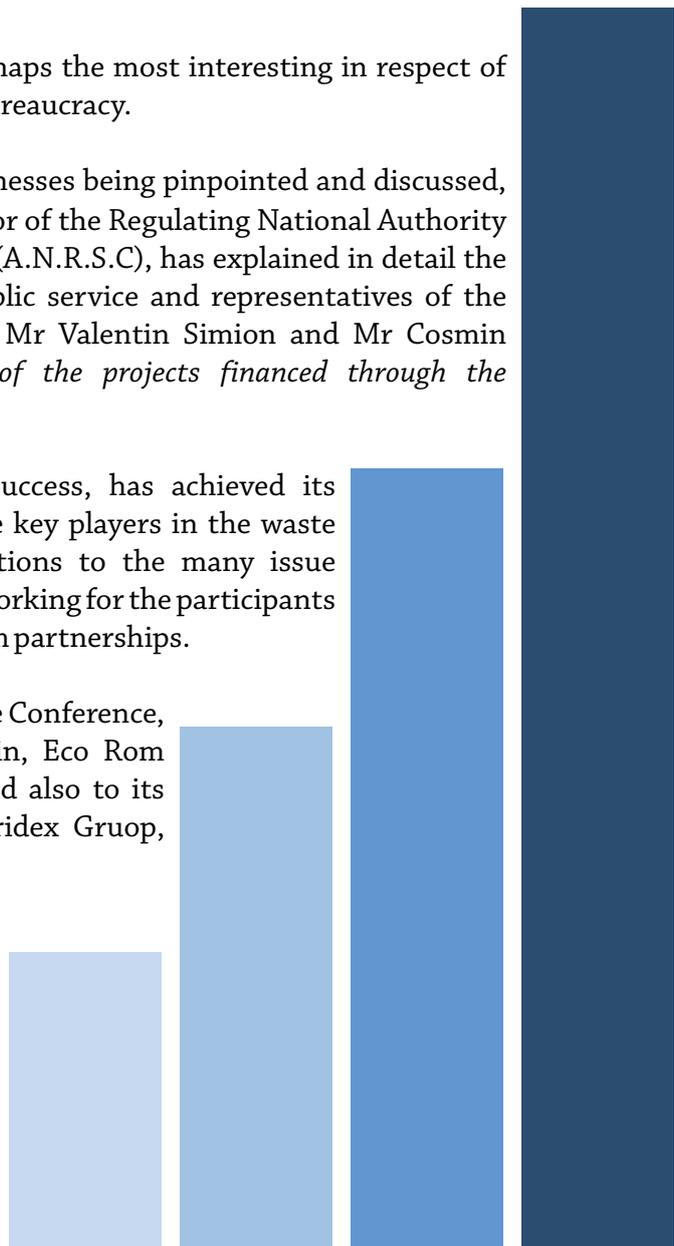
IDA allocated session also had extremely interesting discussions. Mr Gabriel Moiceanu, President of the Federation of Intercommunitary Development Associations has pointed out the role and contribution of these organizations in implementing a performing waste management system in Romania.

The last day of the Conference has been perhaps the most interesting in respect of barriers imposed by legal requirements and bureaucracy.

After three days of both strengths and weaknesses being pinpointed and discussed, on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mr Iulian Bandoiu, Director of the Regulating National Authority for Community Services and Public Utilities (A.N.R.S.C), has explained in detail the new regulations regarding sanitation as public service and representatives of the Management Authority SOP Environment, Mr Valentin Simion and Mr Cosmin Feodorov have presented "*The situation of the projects financed through the Environmental Operational Sector Program.*"

Overall the Conference has been a real success, has achieved its objectives, making possible a meeting of the key players in the waste management sector, in order to find solutions to the many issue encountered and also facilitating quality networking for the participants that would provide opportunities for long term partnerships.

Our thanks go to all involved in organizing the Conference, ISWA, ARS and its Silver members, Klarwin, Eco Rom Ambalaje, Euriteh, Euro Plast, Recolamp and also to its partners - Green Group, Romcarbon SA, Iridex Group, Proper Recycling.



## SIGUREC, the Romanian Collection Project that impressed the Norwegians

The Norwegian Government, through the Norwegian grants, co-financed with a 1.4 million Euro grant a project designed to collect recyclable waste from households, implemented by Total Waste Management, Romanian provider of integrated waste management solutions and part of Green Group recycling park.

On May 20, 2015, a press conference was organized in Bucharest and Buzau, with the support of Norwegian Embassy and the Ministry of Environment, to present the project to the public, stage of development and results so far.

The project consists of developing and implementing smart collection points in 25 major cities in Romania, aiming to take over annually 15,200 tonnes of packaging waste and electrical and electronic equipment, destined to reach recycling facilities in the country.

Named SIGUREC, an acronym for "safe recycling", the collection points integrate four key components:

- a fully automated unit for packaging waste recovery
- a semi-automated unit for receiving electrical and electronic equipment
- a transport truck that serves each collection point
- a unit for compacting the waste

With its state of the art intelligent software, the station tracks and registers each waste item that is collected and has a user friendly communication with the citizens. The station is equipped with Tomra technology, the Norwegian world leader in automated machines for collecting packaging waste. The Tomra solutions were uniquely integrated with Green Group's own system for collecting electronics, resulting a collection concept that is singular in Europe.

Several important advantages are provided using the automatic process and by monitoring the waste, because SIGUREC offers clear and precise data such as the type and weight of the waste and ensures transparency and traceability of the waste to recycling factories. An important role in encouraging people to use the SIGUREC systems is the partnership with retailers such as Carrefour. Thus, when the citizens use the station and give recyclable materials to SIGUREC, they are rewarded automatically with vouchers issued in the form of discount coupons available in hypermarkets.

*Through this project we want to share two important messages: that waste has value and that it is sent directly to recycling facilities. People are encouraged to use our systems by receiving discount shopping vouchers, released automatically after they introduce the recyclables into the devices. In fact, the voucher represents the guarantee that the waste has actually been registered and will get on the shortest way to the recycling factories. For those who do not want the reward there is the option to support and redirect the amount received to a social cause".*

said Constantin Cristea, General Manager of Total Waste Management.

To date, 19 collection points have been installed by Green Group in 14 cities, such as: Buzau, Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu, Oradea, Drobeta Turnu Severin, Iasi, Suceava, Braila, Focsani, Pitesti, Ploiesti, Cluj and Tulcea with the rest of the collection points expected to be implemented by the end of the year. Through the existing collection points, about 1300 tonnes of recyclable materials were recovered.

All collected materials are transported to recycling factories in Romania that are partners in the project, which include Greentech, Romcarbon, Greenweee, GreenLamp, Greenglass Recycling, Vrancart, Ecopaper Zarnesti and AMEP.

## ISWA REPORT - WASTE HEALTH, THE TRAGIC CASE OF DUMPSITES

**Lead author:**

**Antonis Mavropoulos, ISWA STC Chair**

**Contribution from David Newman, ISWA President**

**The report has been prepared as a part of ISWA's Scientific and Technical Committee Work Program 2014 - 2015.**

Dumpsites are a global problem. They receive roughly 40% of the world's waste and they serve about 3.5 - 4 billion people.

The 50 biggest dumpsites affect the daily lives of 64 million people, a population the size of France. As urbanization and population growth will continue, it is expected that at least several hundreds of millions more people will be served by dumpsites, mainly in the developing world.

Although there is a lack of systematic long-term epidemiological studies that fully document the health impacts from dumpsites, the existing scientific evidence demonstrates very important health risks.

The health problems associated with dumpsites are related to their emissions, which usually involve POPs (persistent organic pollutants), heavy metals and VOCs (volatile organic compounds).

The actual health risks depend on the practices followed and on the type of the waste disposed of in each dumpsite, as well as on the environmental and social conditions of the area.

Open burning and animal feeding increase the health risks substantially, the first by direct emissions of dangerous pollutants and the second by transferring the pollutants to the food chain. Uncontrolled disposal of hazardous and healthcare waste as well as manual on-site treatment and disposal of e-waste by informal workers result in important increases of all the health risks and the negative environmental impacts.

ISWA calls upon international organizations, governments and local authorities to develop emergency programs that will identify the riskiest dumpsites and proceed with their closure.

ISWA considers the closure of the dumpsites as a global health emergency and it will work closely with all the involved stakeholders to accelerate programs, initiatives and investments that will result in a world free of dumpsites.

The report starts with facts and figures regarding dumpsites in the modern world.

Then a conceptual framework for dumpsites is presented and their main characteristics are discussed.

The main part of the report presents the scientific evidence for health risks from dumpsites, the impact on workers, informal recyclers and nearby residents and the factors affecting the extend of those impacts.

A note of economic valuation of the health impacts is also included in order to highlight the importance and the difficulties involved in such an analysis. Finally, the report closes with some conclusions and recommendations for further research.

### WASTED HEALTH THE TRAGIC CASE OF DUMPSITES



Lead author: Antonis Mavropoulos, ISWA STC Chair  
Contribution from David Newman, ISWA President

ISWA, June 2015

## FEAD Biennial Conference, London, 23 June 2015 'Dynamic Potential of a Circular Economy'

**In June 26, the European Federation representing the European waste management (FEAD) President, David Palmer-Jones (pictured), welcomed more than 100 participants from 17 Member States to FEAD's Biennial Conference in London to discuss the circular economy.**

The event was held in co-operation with the UK Environmental Services Association (ESA), and saw discussions dedicated to the practical measures already being taken by leading waste and resource management companies, to apply circular economy principles in their operations and so reap the economic and environmental rewards.

David Palmer-Jones, said:

*"As the private waste and resources management industry, it is our belief that moving towards a more circular economy in Europe will bring both environmental and economic advantages. Improving the efficiency with which we use material resources is in all of our interests".*

*"Provided circular economy measures are framed sensibly, and in full consultation with all those involved in making it happen, they will be positive for jobs and growth. We also believe that the industry FEAD represents plays a key role in the transition to a more circular economy. We have the skills and the experience to work with partners in the value chain, to reduce waste and recover materials and energy, and we have the capacity to invest for the future".*

The opening words were followed by Sally Uren, Chief Executive at Forum for the Future.

She supported FEAD's vision of achieving more circularity in Europe and stressed what is key to make the circular economy work - the need to think systemically and to ensure resilient secondary raw materials markets: "We need organizations such as FEAD to catalyze the rate of change".

Kęstutis Sadauskas, Director Green Economy at the European Commission's DG Environment, called upon FEAD to continue providing ideas for concrete measures to accelerate the transition from a linear to a circular economy, so to step up the implementation on the ground. He said that we should draw lessons from previous EU funding periods to ensure intelligent planning of investments and avoid market distortions: "EU funds must be used wisely". Peter Hodecek, member of the FEAD Administrative Council, focussed on the poor enforcement of waste legislation in Central and Eastern Europe (PL, CZ, RO, HU, SK).

He also explained how the lack of economic instruments and improper application of the public procurement procedures hamper private investment, thereby creating barriers to achieving sustainable growth in a resource efficient and environmentally sound way. EU funds should not be used for re-municipalisation and to set up redundant waste management infrastructure.

The European Commission was also represented by Vincenzo Gente (DG Research and Innovation) who focused on the key role of research and innovation in a circular economy, and by Sander Happaerts (DG Regional Policy) presenting the need for an effective use of EU funds in achieving it. Other innovative financial instruments to support investments were highlighted by Jonas Byström from the European Investment Bank.

Several speakers addressed eco-design measures and incentives to promote reusable, repairable and recyclable products. Colin Church, who spoke on behalf of the UK's Department for Environment (Defra), said that as long as products are appealing to consumers, they will be willing to buy green products, provided there is no significant price difference.

The new UK government will focus on productivity, which is key to sustained economic growth. Stephane Arditi (European Environmental Bureau) stressed that the EU has limited resources but high product standards, and that these should be used as one of its main strengths in global competition. Both he and Paul Ekins (University College of London) demonstrated that higher resource efficiency holds the potential of boosting economic growth and productivity. Forbes McDougall (Veolia) and Stuart Hayward-Higham (Suez) highlighted how innovation, investment and eco-design already contribute to a greater circularity.

## No EU funds to re-municipalise Central and Eastern Europe

EU funds to Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) should be monitored more stringently and used to boost private investment rather than spent on re-municipalisation and on setting up redundant waste management infrastructure, according to a waste expert.

Speaking at the European Federation of Waste Management (FEAD)'s annual conference on 23 June, Mr. Peter Hodecek, member of the FEAD Administrative Council, said that unless there was more control over what the funds were used for and unless EU waste rules were properly enforced, there was no hope of the region achieving sustainable growth in a resource efficient and environmentally sound way.

Hodecek explained that along with Christian Abl, a deputy member of the FEAD Executive Council, he had analysed the waste situation in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

*"Those five countries represent 16% of the total EU population, but between them they only have six incineration plants and landfilling remains the predominant method of waste disposal."*

According to their research, money invested in those countries is simply not spent on new recycling infrastructure and technology as it should be, while the public sector subsidies to these countries have in turn discouraged investment by private sector companies - creating a market distortion. He said that at EU level the problem was that the policies were created in Brussels and the CEE members were *"mostly not involved"* while the focus was too much on the best performing countries. Meanwhile in those countries waste management is simply not a priority, there is *"missing support, limited know-how and municipalities have no or limited budget for waste management"*.

### **Waste infrastructure clusters**

Hodecek suggested that one way to deal with the existing disparities between member states would be to classify CEE regions into different *"waste infrastructure clusters"*.

In Slovakia for example, which, out of the countries Hodecek and Abl studied, is the one with the biggest implementation gap in waste legislation, there are 80 landfills in operation for untreated municipal solid waste (MSW) for a mere 5.4 million citizens. *"Some 67 % of MSW is going to landfill directly and untreated"*, he said, adding that this was coupled with low municipal waste fees and low landfill fees.

Landfill fees are just as low in the Czech Republic, which has 178 landfill sites in operation for some 8 million inhabitants, because *"there is enough landfill capacity to last until 2050 or even 2060"*.

In Hungary since 2013 only companies of which the state is the major or sole shareholder are authorised to provide waste management services. Meanwhile in Romania *"huge shipments of refuse-derived fuel (RDF) from Italy and the UK are flooding the Romanian market. There are no local RDF production plants and MSW is going directly to landfills,"* said Hodecek.

### **Positive Poland**

Hodecek said the only positive example was that of Poland which has successfully introduced a landfill tax for untreated waste. In 2014, the tax was set at €32/tonne and in 2015 it went up to €45/tonne.

This is *"driving investments towards sorting and MBT (mechanical biological treatment) due to competitive prices compared to landfills"*, he said. In addition, there are fair public tendering procedures in all regions and MSW has to be treated before landfilling. Waste is not allowed to be shipped outside of its region of origin and industries are obliged to use 50% of domestically produced RDF.

Despite this good example, Hodecek said much had to be done to ensure those countries achieve a circular economy.

*"In Central and Eastern Europe if EU waste legislation is mostly implemented, enforcement is lagging far behind. Public companies use subsidised investments on non-subsidised competitive markets to gain additional revenue."*

Hodecek explained there was an increasing number of public enterprises in the sector, particularly in Hungary which leads to unfair competition due to their access to EU funding. In addition, *"there are no controls on how projects are financially and technically designed and practically operated and no controls on where the funding is finally invested in. This needs to be monitored at EU level,"* he said.

*"Central and Eastern Europe have to introduce landfill fees of €30/tonne with a €10/tonne increase annually and put an end to varying levels of contributions for public and private investors to give them equal treatment,"* he added, while also insisting on the need for new strategies for RDF imports.

### **Control investments**

Hodecek further insisted on the need for more control of EU subsidised investments. He called for a *"master plan"* away from the current *"First come first served"* system currently in place and suggested a stronger focus on enforcement and a policy of repayment in case of improper use of funds.

Investments in new MSW incinerators should be scrutinised to avoid overcapacity. *"There is a need for a European network of treatment plants,"* he added. Hodecek also wants to see an end to the funding of collection infrastructure (vehicles and bins). The EU, he said, should only be subsidising pre-treatment and recovery operations. Last but not least there should be no financial contribution from the EU for re-municipalisation projects.

The Swedish Environment Minister, for example, announced last month that it had decided to give municipalities full responsibility over the collection of household packaging waste.

Responding to criticism over the European Commission's handling of funds, Kęstutis Sadauskas, DG Environment green economy director, pointed out that EU funding had *"never been perfect"* and that to scrutinise every waste project would be a *"time consuming"* process.

*"It would be interesting to hear from the municipalities and to hear their side of the story. As for the EU funding, it's never been perfect. It's meant to give some public utilities a boost in the countries that can't afford them. Of course this investment needs to be monitored more than ever before,"* Sadauskas said.

*"To go into each individual project is quite time-consuming as you can imagine. If there are mistakes that have been made what needs to be done is draw lessons from it and make sure the multi annual cycle of investment is done though very intelligent planning."*

More information: [www.fead.be](http://www.fead.be)

## RE-FUSE efficiency in a circular economy

Article published in *Waste Management World* (on-line edition, 21.07.2015)

*Jonas Byström, senior sector specialist, water & waste management division, European Investment Bank (EIB) suggests ways to promote a circular economy, including the introduction of new terminology.*



With a growing global population and increasing consumption, it is becoming more and more evident that we live beyond the means of the earth's finite resources and environmental carrying capacity. This is manifested not only by the often alarming effects of a disturbed environment and stressed climate, but also by the last decade's rising resource prices that followed a century of falling prices. Together, these factors provide a strong case for steering away from the current linear take-make-use-dispose society towards a more circular economy, where, the utility and value of materials are maximised, their wastage throughout the value chain is minimised, and any waste generated is considered an asset rather than a liability.

In the waste sector, the development towards a circular economy presents both challenges and opportunities. Waste managers should consider how best to adapt to and benefit from this new reality and contribute to its further realisation. A key challenge is to find ways to more firmly establish the view that our post-consumption discards are resources, whose management should fully reflect their inherent resource and energy value, also considering that this value will continue to increase in parallel to resource depletion.

### **From waste to re-fuse**

It has been argued that the first step towards integrated waste management is to stop calling it waste. On a similar note, it is sometimes stated that in a fully circular economy there is no waste, since all linear flows have been closed in circular material loops. Acknowledging this, the time seems right to substitute the negatively charged term waste with a new term that better reflects the resource value inherent in post-consumption discards.

Since such discards could be viewed as **resources after use**, the term **re-fuse** is an option, also considering its allusion to a post consumption stage ("re"), to incorporation and integration ("fuse"), and to the circular economy mantra re-think. The adoption of a new term, such as re-fuse, which is used throughout this text for the sake of argument, would signal the transition from yesterday's waste management, aimed at minimising environmental and health impacts and diverting waste from landfills, to tomorrow's re-fuse exploitation in an increasingly circular economy.

### **Re-fuse efficiency**

Increased re-fuse efficiency is an important aspect of a circular economy. During the last decades, EU directives and targets have contributed to reducing re-fuse generation, diverting re-fuse from landfills, and increasing re-fuse recycling and recovery. While many EU member states have achieved high recycling rates, others are struggling to reach double digit numbers, something which the Commission will consider in their revision of the Circular Economy Package presented by the last Commission in July 2014, and withdrawn by the new Commission in February 2015.

The original package included among others proposals to raise recycling targets for municipal solid waste to 70% and for packaging waste to 80% by 2030. The revised proposal will reportedly have a wider focus than the old, and comprise smarter and more effective targets, some of which could

also be country specific. The Commission has launched a public consultation on the subject that is open until 20th August 2015, and the revised proposal is expected to be presented by year-end. Whenever future EU targets are set and formulated there will always be a certain level of uncertainty in planning the capacity of residual re-use treatment facilities based on yet to be attained future diversion targets. There is thus a clear rationale first to aim at maximising re-use diversion, and, when and where necessary for target compliance, establish residual re-use treatment capacity.

### **The road to re-use efficiency**

To increase re-use efficiency, further efforts must be made to increase both the quantity and the quality of recyclables extracted from re-use. This will reduce the dependency on imported raw materials in EU, and increase the resilience to diminishing supplies and increasing prices, with new jobs and economic growth as added benefits.

On the recyclables supply side, separate collection infrastructure and related treatment facilities must be expanded and improved, and public awareness increased, in particular in countries where recycling rates are low today. Here, financial institutions like EIB have a responsibility to adapt their lending products and procedures to the financing needs of often small and less capital intensive re-use recycling and recovery projects comprising e.g. separate collection infrastructure, material recovery facilities, and composting and anaerobic digestion facilities.

Framework loans, which enable the financing of groups of smaller projects of a particular type or in specific region, and intermediated lending, are appropriate for such types of projects. Through the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) under the Investment Plan for Europe, and through other dedicated instruments, EIB is also able to finance circular economy projects with a higher risk profile than under normal EIB operations.

Targets and other push-like measures aside, it is being recognised that further recycling developments will also require pull-like mechanisms and measures that support the development of markets and boost demand for secondary raw materials extracted from re-use. Optional measures discussed include, for example, further focus on eco-design and green procurement, streamlining eco-label systems as means to build consumer awareness, and better exploiting various economic incentives such as differentiated VAT schemes or extended producer responsibility fee rebates on products or packaging that contain a certain share of secondary raw materials. Voluntary industry schemes for minimum recycled content in certain products or packaging, such as under the UK Dairy Roadmap, would also contribute to an increased demand for secondary raw materials.

Looking further up in the value chain, product design and production planning should strive to improve material, water and energy efficiency, and increase the life and the potential for repair, dismantling and recycling of products.

### **The opportunities in re-use efficiency**

Whereas the transition to a re-use efficient circular economy era is justified by the necessity to adapt to an increasingly resource constrained reality, it should not be seen as a necessary burden, but as a logical development with the potential to create employment and economic growth in EU. Such a transition would be facilitated by a closer dialogue and co-operation among policy makers, industry and the re-use sector, where re-use managers could take a more proactive and pivotal role than is the case today. Actively promoting such a re-use efficient green growth seems like a sensible aspirational path for the re-use management sector in our developing circular economy.

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*Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the EIB.*

## European Commission provides 24 environmental & climate NGOs with €9 million funding

The European Commission has chosen to award operating grants to 24 NGOs in 2015 under the LIFE Regulation 2014-2020.

The successful organisations will receive a total of €9 million between them. This funding aims to strengthen the participation of NGOs in the dialogue process in environmental and climate change policy-making and in its implementation.

In the past, this funding has supported successful campaigns to ban the use of the neonicotinoids, an insecticide that adversely affects bees, and lobbying efforts to end fossil fuel subsidies. The selected NGOs are active in a wide range of fields - from nature & biodiversity conservation through climate change mitigation & adaptation to environment and resources efficiency.

Starting with this year's call for proposals, the LIFE programme foresees a system of biannual framework partnership agreements (FPAs) for operating grants. This will result in a list of selected framework partners, who will then be invited in a specific call to submit their work programme.

The calls for proposals will be published on the LIFE Programme website. The applications are evaluated and ranked according to criteria relating to the extent to which the organisations can contribute to EU policy development and implementation in the priority areas of EU environmental and climate change policy.

EU-level environmental & climate action NGOs that wish to apply for funding under this programme must be non-profit making and independent. They must also be active at a European level with activities and members in at least three EU Member States.

A total of 66 NGOs applied for operating grants in 2015, of which 24 were selected for funding and have already started their work:

Further details can be found in the publication, **European Environmental and climate NGOs LIFE operating grants 2015**, which is available to download [[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/ngos/documents/ngo\\_comp15.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/ngos/documents/ngo_comp15.pdf)].

The next call, this time for two-year operating periods, is scheduled to be launched in June.

For more information on operational funding is available, visit the LIFE website [<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/ngos/index.htm>].



## PET Cup - Pirates of the Tisza

Date: 17-25, July 2015

*Destinations: Vásárosnamény - Tiszaadony - Tizsamogyorós - Zsurk - Tuzsér - Révleányvár - Cigánd.*

In Hungary authorities try to stop the PET Bottle Flood at places like the Kisköre Dam, but sometimes the contamination is too severe for them to handle. Apart from a few isolated efforts to collect some of the garbage, local communities, too, are helpless in times of the flood. Seeing this, we knew that something has to be done to stop this recurrent wave of pollution. Collecting trash, however, is a depressing and sad activity.

How could it be turned into something more alluring, inspiring and entertaining?

How could we reach an impact big enough to change people's mind on this issue in Hungary, Ukraine and Romania?

We think that this is a situation where NGO's can really make a difference.

Filmjungle Society is busy with making conservation documentaries and wildlife films. This Society gave birth to the initiative called the PET Cup.

The goal of the PET Cup is to direct and raise public awareness towards the Tisza River in Eastern Europe, where pollution has reached a level that is far too high to continue ignoring. The source of pollution is the huge annual PET Bottle Flood, which carries tons of domestic garbage - mainly PET bottles and plastic bags - from upstream regions in Ukraine and Romania.

Each spring, pollution wave sweeps along the entire river, finally depositing its plastic waste in the floodplain forests along the shorelines of Slovakia and Hungary.

By now, the piles of the deposited plastic can reach several meters in height at certain spots.

Upon seeing all this, a team of environmental filmmakers from Filmjungle Society (Hungary) decided to launch the PET Cup initiative.

With strong support from local communities, the PET Cup starts out with a social event of PET bottle picking, a "trash hunt", and continues with a wild boat-building competition of several teams, each building their own PET boats from the jointly collected garbage. Finally, the cup ends in a crazy long-distance boat-race on the river.

### **PET Cup? What is this all about?**

PET Cup might seem to be an ordinary boat race, but it is not.

Built on nothing else but pollution, PET Cup is powered by environmentally conscious people, companies and NGOs. Together, they can:

- show the world how badly Tisza is affected by pollution;
- do a lot against it;
- and eventually, stop pollution

### **PET Cup does the trick by:**

- Raising awareness - via web videos, short films and social posts bringing the topic to the widest audience possible;
- Collecting garbage - tens of thousands of bottles are removed from the river;
- Inspiring local communities - shore events, showing positive example to follow;
- Measuring pollution mapping the plastic mountains, estimating the size of pollution;
- Bringing in knowledge - inviting companies, NGOs to fight pollution;
- Stopping the growth of plastic piles bringing in foreign expertise;
- Starting international discussion to deal with the source of pollution in Ukraine and Romania.

The first two PET Cups, held in 2013 and in 2014, were great success stories. The PET Pirates had covered more than 100 kilometres and collected nearly 25.000 bottles from the river. At the end of the boat-race, the winners were given the prestigious PET Cup made of - guess what - garbage from the river. Boats are afterwards recycled, just like the massive loads of plastic collected during the race.

"In 2015, we want to collect more PET bottles than ever before. Again, we want to build new boats

from trash. We want to make the Tisza a healthy river again. And we want to turn the PET Cup into a tradition. With your help, we can do it." - proclaimed Attila Molnár, an idea owner for the project.

### How will this year's PET CUP be different from the previous ones?

The PET fleet of 2015 will combat pollution with 20 ships made from litter and almost 100 PET pirates, which means an unprecedented level of collaboration with promising effect: this year the PET fleet set a many times bigger goal compared to the 10.000 bottles catch of last year!



Litter managing procedures will also be different. Volunteers, managed by ÖKO-Pack and Volunteer Centre, are going to classify the collected waste to groups of reusables and non-reusables on a daily basis. The regional waste managing NGO based in Nyíregyháza (Térségi Hulladék-Gazdálkodási Nonprofit Kft.) has agreed to take responsibility over transportation as well as handling and preparing reusable waste, thus taking considerable part in the effective implementation of the project.

The third improvement will be establishing the aforementioned "waste map" database. This will be the first year, when the crew of PET boats will not only collect litter, but will also continuously monitor the extent and location of waste hills in the floodplain.

Another first-time attempt was that PET Cup popularized the Tisza-project on several locations both in Budapest (Boat Show, Day of Explorers) and in the countryside.

As a result, the event has a patron this year: Ákos Vereckei, the two-time Olympic gold medallist in kayaking.

Since mass media will be more present at the competition, the organizers will provide satellite-based internet connection for media workers, so that the daily reports can reach the population in time.



The organizers are looking for Romanian and Ukrainian partners (local governments, NGOs, business associations, educational institutions) who would be willing to help this initiative

with data, information, photos, and supporting events, so that we can put an end to pollution in the near future!

The main sponsor of PET Cup 3 is National Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water.

Partners of the PET Cup:

ÖKO-Pack Nonprofit Kft., Magyar Kajak-Kenu Szövetség (Hungarian kayak and canoe association), Természetfilm.hu, Filmdzsungel Kft., Szertár Blog.

More information: [www.petkupa.hu](http://www.petkupa.hu)

# RDN EVENTS IN 2015

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**International Symposium on the Role of Communication in Waste Management**

19/21 of March, Zadar, Croatia

*info@hugo.com.hr*

**International Conference on Waste Management**

May, Athens, Greece

*ct@enviroplan.gr*

**International Conference on Waste Management**

4/5 of June, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

*moldswa\_lifter@yahoo.com*

**International Conference on Waste Management**

1/2 of July, Bucharest, Romania

*office@salubritatea.ro*

**International Workshop on Waste Management**

22/23 of September, Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina

*info.baswa@yahoo.com*

**International Conference on Waste Management**

15/16 of October, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

*contact@maswa.org*