

## EU project "Promoting Zero Waste" (ZeroWaste Pro 1CAP-MED12-35). The "CO2ZW - Carbon Footprint Tool for Waste management in Europe "

F.Kirkitsos<sup>1</sup>, S.Papatheochari<sup>1</sup>, K.Makrynika<sup>1</sup>, D.Homatidis<sup>1</sup>, A.Dalamaga<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ecological Recycling Society (ECOREC), Non Profit Environmental Organization, Athens, Greece

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Presenting author email: [katia@ecorec.gr](mailto:katia@ecorec.gr)

The project "Promoting Zero Waste" with the acronym ZeroWaste Pro aims to promote and disseminate all results and outputs, of the partners' MED and other EU funded projects, that are related to the sustainable solid waste management practices of prevention, minimization, reuse, recycling and composting, through the use of tools and reduplication of good examples and practices. In accordance with the great emphasis put on communication and dissemination results at EU level and programme level too, the project ZeroWaste Pro carries out a strong dissemination effort.

The selection of tools and examples will become a set of instruments to be used by local authorities and other stakeholders, in order to achieve best possible environmental results, while applying low cost solutions.

The ZeroWaste Pro objectives are:

- The promotion of low-cost zero waste activities and strategies.
- Incentivizing the cost-effective-initiatives of the product-chains and identifying niches for local enterprises.
- To assist local authorities to develop a more cost-effective Municipal Solid Waste Management System and to enhance local economies.
- To support municipalities and competent actors to know the possible solutions and apply them.
- To supply municipalities and competent actors with the knowledge of the produced CO<sub>2</sub> from the waste management system currently implemented, as well as from other alternative waste management scenarios.
- To take advantage, in synergy with municipalities, the experiences of home composting projects and show by reports and data the impact of this practice on the waste management system (at economic, social and environmental level).
- To make available a platform for sharing easy information and experience between different regions and Country in MED area.

11 partners from 8 countries share common goals to find better solutions to use of clean/smart technologies and life-cycle thinking. The problem itself is transnational: the challenge of resource efficiency does not respect borders. In light of this, partners stick to a transnational vision of turning MED area into Resource Efficient (RE) region, thereby playing a pioneering role in enhancing the environmental sustainability in MED area.

Activities also clearly depict a transnational character. The project is driven by the important motive for RE and development of synergies among projects and build up a network in order to reinforce and enlarge the capacities of the classical-targeted projects to implement and disseminate the results. The experiences of the partners are very important and can constitute a platform of exchange of know-how/tools. A common base will be developed supported on the above mentioned transfer of experiences gained through work that will be mutually enriched and could be adapted to the local situation.

With a transnational approach, the exchange of tools and adaptation of already developed models of innovation in reducing the quantity of disposed waste and waste minimization strategy for the specific needs of the area will be enabled. The purpose of cooperation is reducing development disparities and opening up new possibilities for economic cooperation among the countries. The territorial-economic integration will be improved, which will contribute to cohesion and competitiveness.

The Project target audiences differ, based on the various actions that will be held, during the project. These are: Citizens, public authorities, Competent Authorities (public or private), SMEs, Schools, Universities, Public and Private Offices, Manager of Industrial Areas, Municipalities and Regional Departments, private companies at local, EU and MED level, Institutional Bodies, Partners and Lead Partners of related projects, managers of Industrial Areas, Managing Authorities of projects at EU and MED level.

The **CO2ZW Carbon Footprint Tool for Waste management in Europe** (from now on, CO2ZW®) was developed by the Sostenipra Research Group (<http://www.sostenipra.cat>) (Inèdit Innovació, Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals, ICTA, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) with funding provided by the European Commission via the Zero Waste Project (1G-MED08-533) in 2012. The CO2ZW® will be disseminated through the ZeroWaste Pro project. CO2ZW® provides a means of calculating the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (in carbon

dioxide equivalents) emanating from the waste operations of European municipalities. The Tool is an Excel®-based calculator which, with the input of municipality-specific waste data (or national data as a default), permits the user to obtain a municipality-level carbon footprint of waste treatment (infrastructures are not included). The user will be able to use this calculator to support GHG monitoring and reporting initiatives as well as to provide an estimation of potential GHG reductions (or additions) associated with management and technological advances in the local waste operations.