

CoR ARLEM
Nicosia Initiative to the support of Libyan Local Authorities

“Field Workshop for the kick-off of Pilot Organic Waste Compost Areas project in 6 Libyan driving municipalities”

Date: 21-23 March 2017

Location: Tozeur - Dagheche - Tunisia

Objectives: Identify the road map to set up pilot customised organic waste compost areas to be placed in key locations of the 6 Libyan municipalities of Gharyan, Zintan, Sebha, Tripoli, Benghazi and Toubruk;
Field visit to an Italian basic compost project in the rural village of Dagheche to closely observe the organic process and mainly better understand how the municipality has involved the local community in the organic waste segregation at source.

Program:(see it attached)

Participants

Libyan Focal Points waste management for the Nicosia Initiative:

Salah BELKHER	Tripoli	Engineer
Mohamed GREIN	Sebha	Engineer
Mohand MLATEM	Gharyan	Engineer
Mohamed ELHADDER	Zintan	Engineer
Hafiz BENALI	Benghazi	Municipality Projects Department
Mousay JIBREEL	Toubruk	Engineer

(Slama Mustafa is the focal point for Toubruk but he couldn't travel due to passport issues. He will be following up the project implementation on the ground though)

European Partners:

Francoise BONNET	Brussels	ACR+ Secretary General
Anne VANPUTTE	Mechelen	OVAM (Public Waste Agency of Flanders)
Ramon PLANA	Barcelona	ACR+ expert
Paolo AGOSTINI	Alba	A.I.C.A. cooperative expert
Paolo MARENGO	Alba	E.R.I.C.A. cooperative expert

Nicosia Initiative:

Benedetta ODDO	Brussels	Special Advisor Libyan Municipalities and CoR Liaison
Abdullah MABROK	Tunis	Crown Agents

General Observations

Waste management in Libya is one of the key strategic public services that need overall restructuring towards the establishment of an effective Integrated Solid Waste Management System. Municipalities are facing multiple challenges even to respond at least to the basic requirements affecting directly people lives (conflicting legal framework, lack of adequate means for garbage collection, transportation and disposal, lack of financial resources).

Wastes in general have been representing a problem in Libya since before the uprising but now, also in the absence of a structured state and national stability, it has become an enormous burden with serious implications for public health and the environment.

The Libyan focal points participating in the workshop have pointed out a series of emergencies related, for example, to construction waste disposal in cities like Benghazi and Sirte being heavily destroyed during the conflict of the last three years; to medical waste disposal representing an everlasting threat for public health; to uncontrolled dumping sites increasingly source of community pollution and social tensions. Not to talk about sewage and wastewater problems.

Of course in consideration of this state of emergency, focusing on the set up of pilot organic compost areas seems a drop in the ocean.

Nevertheless through the discussions with the involved European partners and experts, participants have found consensus on the fact that it is important to start from a strategic scratch, as done also in Europe 30 years ago.

Organic solid wastes represent in the waste chain the closest link to the citizens therefore allowing having a double impact: one, to start working through a concrete action on public community education on organic waste segregation at source reducing the wet fraction of waste to the dumping sites, which fraction has the most negative environmental impact (greenhouse gas emission) affecting climate change; to shake the immobility of public authorities, often paralysed by the enormity of the problem, who can find in this pilot initiative a departure point.

Moreover, the decentralised partnership established in the framework of the Nicosia Initiative, will increasingly engage in the process and would provide long lasting technical assistance and opportunities for further future investments, know-how exchanges and technology transfer. Most important, the consideration of past mistakes made in the waste management process at the European level could also represent an accelerating factor for Libyans to avoid them and start moving more constructively faster.

Main Outputs:

Participants have agreed on the followings:

Locations previously identified by the Libyan partners can be grouped in three categories: university/colleges, medical centres, close to dumping sites.

Sebha and **Ghariyan** would locate the compost areas in the university campus. **Sebha** also focusing on the two female students colleges; **Zintan** would identify a location possibly gathering the organic waste of the faculty of science and the medical centres; **Tripoli** would locate the compost area in the Tripoli Central Hospital; both **Benghazi** and **Toubruk** would probably locate it close to the main dumping sites (Benghazi due to its incentives system already in place to encourage citizens collection, transport and disposal of the waste, which could be further refined to encourage also separation at source of the organic fraction and its valorisation at the compost area; Toubruk due to its educational and research program already conducted at the dumping site with the students of its environmental engineering faculty). Choice will be anyway finalised in the project document.

Drafting a project proposal based on the information already provided by the Libyan partners who will also directly contribute to the fine-tuning of the document and its plan of action.

Budget should include the following components of the project proposal:

1. Technical assistance
2. Training of dedicated personnel
3. Purchase of all needed materials for compost areas installation and running, including sorting boxes and all support material for waste segregation
4. Development and set-up of a monitoring system within the Municipal Solid Waste and / or Cleaning Departments, which can provide scientific data on the process and suggest needed adjustments and further developments (field studies and survey).
5. Awareness campaigns for further community education and involvement
6. Field visits of similar structures in Europe for further exchange and learning.

Both ACR+ and OVAM made already available handbooks on organic waste segregation and composting conceived in previous projects for municipalities and education establishments. The handbooks will be translated into Arabic for wider outreach purposes.

The project proposal should be ready at last before May 27. All actors involved will work on an earlier option, if current working engagements allow.

Fund raising should start immediately after the European partners provide an estimation of the total budget needed for the whole action (as soon as possible).

Workshop programme

Nicosia initiative: Training & workshop with Libyan municipalities and European experts

Wednesday, 22 March 2017: Study visit

Study visit to Degache

Objectives:

- Providing a complete and comprehensive introduction to the bio-waste management system set up in Degache, Tunisia

Content:

- Visit to the separate collection system
- Visit to the composting facility
- Conversation with the city department on implementation of the changes: Frank discussion about challenges, barriers, and solutions

09:00	Transfer from Tozeur to Degache
09:30	Meeting point at the Municipality of Degache
10:30	Small demonstration tour of the collection system
11:00	Visit to the composting plant
12:00	Transfer from the composting plant site to Tozeur
12:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30	Transfer from Tozeur to the Municipality of Degache
15:00	Meeting with the stakeholders of the Project “Les Oasis de EL Oudiane”, implemented by A.I.C.A. (International Association for Environmental Communication)
16:00	Meeting with the workers of the selective collection system
17:00	END

Thursday, 23 March 2017: Training & workshop

Morning session: Training

Objectives:

- Introduction to bio-waste management on local level in an integrated approach
- Introduction to composting options

Modules:

- Integrated Solid Waste Management
- Separate collection in Southern European municipalities
- Composting options (types and how the municipalities can support/implement them, advantages/disadvantages, challenges & potential solutions, expected results)
- Composting
 - o Technical requirements & specificities Mediterranean climate
 - o Legislation & legislative issues/ boundaries
 - o Aspect concerning the societal acceptance and public awareness (how to involve the citizens but also how to reach acceptance for composting plants)
 - o Costs and revenues
 - o Use of compost/marketing

09:00	Introduction and short presentation of trainers & participants	Benedetta Oddo, Françoise Bonnet (ACR+)
09:30	Integrated Solid Waste Management	Anne Vandeputte (OVAM)
09:50	Organic waste management	Françoise Bonnet
10:00	Composting options (including advantages and disadvantages, conditions, challenges & potential solutions, involvement/support from municipality, costs, expected results). Focus: which strategy for which context?	Ramón Plana (Independent expert)
10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00	Separate collection as a preliminary condition to composting?	Paolo Marengo/ Paolo Agostini (AICA)
11:15	Other key factors to be considered: Legislation & legislative boundaries, societal acceptance & public awareness, use of compost & marketing, climate/weather conditions	
12:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	

Afternoon session: Workshop

Moderation: Benedetta Oddo & Françoise Bonnet

Objective: Developing an idea for a bio-waste management strategy in each target territory

Content:

- Analysis of individual situations in target municipalities
- Development of individual strategies
- Discussion of options available and their conditions for implementation as well as advantages and disadvantages
- Discussion of strategy chosen with group and experts
- First draft of a bio-waste management strategy in each target territory

Work will be conducted in individual and group work, and presented to the whole group. Experts will provide feedback and input to all questions arising.

13:30	Presentation of individual situation in Libyan municipalities (5x7min); questions & reflections ¹	Participants
14:30	Identification of common problems & challenges	All
14:45	Individual work on own territory: Based on presentations in the morning and considering the individual situation, the participants are asked to choose the composting strategy that they want to apply in their territory, and to conduct a SWOT analysis. The experts are there to help and discuss where needed.	Participants
15:15	Group work: Participants and experts split in two groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation and discussion of strategy chosen and SWOT results - Discussion of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Potential problems in each territory and ideas how to overcome them o expected costs o expected results 	Participants & experts
16:15	Panel: Presentation of individual strategies & analysis, comments from the other group and panel	Participants
17:00	Drafting of a roadmap: Next steps?	All
17:30	END	

¹ The participants will prepare 1-2 slides on the situation in their territory, to present the situation to everyone, including key general data and key waste data.