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**Research area: Product aims**

Raw materials // Paper for Recycling (PfR)

**Key words:**

Paper for Recycling, separate collection

**TITLE:****IMPACTPapeRec - Boosting the implementation of participatory strategies on separate paper collection for efficient recycling****Background/Problem area**

IMPACTPapeRec is a European project aiming to boost the Circular Economy by further increasing the separate collection of Paper for Recycling (PfR) and promote appropriate schemes to avoid landfilling and incineration.

Currently, the production of paper and board in the EU stands at 91 million tonnes per year. Consumption of paper and board stands at 82 million tonnes. 58 million tonnes of PfR are collected from households, commerce, industry and offices. The paper recycling rate is therefore 71.7%. The contribution of PfR to the raw material mix of the European paper industry has increased over the last few years from 25 million tonnes in 1991 to 47 million tonnes in 2014.

However, the increase in the availability of PfR has not taken place in all EU member states, and this is especially true in Central and Eastern European countries. Moreover, the quality of the collected material does not always meet the requirements of paper recycling. Without additional measures, these two facts will make it difficult to keep up with the increases in PfR collection observed over the last few years.

IMPACTPapeRec is a consortium of 19 partners from eight countries, i.e. Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Poland, Romania and Spain. The innovative approach of the defined participatory strategies on separate paper collection for efficient recycling is based on the commitment of the whole paper value chain: Research entities (ITENE and PTS), large paper companies (Saica, Hamburger, Stora Enso), large waste management company (Tega), a European retailer (Carrefour), representative SME groups (PROPAKMA, Fenix Dupnica) municipalities (ACR+, Sfantu Gheorge, Mihai Viteazu, Dupnitsa, Mezdra, Trivalis), the German Institute for Standardisation (DIN), an EPR scheme (Ecofolio), the European paper sector organisation (CEPI), and an eNGO (EEB). They represent a clear balance along the value chain.

**Objectives/Research results**

IMPACTPapeRec aims to further increase the separate collection of Paper for Recycling (PfR) and promote appropriate schemes to avoid landfilling and incineration.

The main objective is to put Europe at the forefront of PfR collection by providing an innovative and common knowledge platform, which will enable present and future cooperation. Analysis on best practices in PfR collection and assessment procedures are delivered, considering specific local conditions. They will encourage reliable decisions and make solutions available to decision makers, e.g. local authorities ensuring the procurement and supply of PfR in Europe through the improvement of municipal paper collection.

The project focuses on countries with below average paper recycling rates such as Bulgaria, Poland and Romania as well as countries where paper from households, small shops and offices is often collected in a commingled stream with other recyclables as is the case in France and the UK. A best practice handbook will be developed to support the different EU regions in the implementation of best collection procedures.

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**Application/Economic benefits**

IMPACTPapeRec wants to act as the common European information point for PfR collection for the European industry, by pooling and disseminating information and bringing together stakeholders from the value chain to exchange results, findings and experiences. In order to improve the development and promotion of best practices in paper collection there is a need for common evaluation and benchmarking methodologies.

All stakeholders within the paper value chain will benefit:

Paper industry: reducing production costs through improved PfR quality; increase of PfR availability

Waste management industry: optimisation of waste treatment and transport costs

Municipalities: reducing cost for waste disposal by selling recyclable materials

Citizens: prevention of landfilling and incineration increases in quality of life

**Period of time: 01.02.2016 – 31.01.2018**

**Remarks**

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