HELLENIC REPUBLIC
REGION OF THESSALY

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OptiWaMag
Interreg Europe

OptiWaMag
Optimization of waste management in urban spaces and in households

Regional Action Plan

Region of Thessaly, Greece – Project Partner 6

Contents

ABBREVIATIONS

CRC:	Creative Reuse Center
EWC:	European Waste Codes
NSWMP:	National Solid Waste Management Plan
PAYT:	Pay As You Throw
RC	Recycling Corner
RSWMP:	Regional Solid Waste Management Plan
RU:	Regional Unit
SWMA:	Solid Waste Management Association
WMA:	Waste Management Authority

1 General information

Project: Optimization of waste management in urban spaces and in households
Project acronym: OptiWaMag
Partner organisation(s) concerned: Region of Thessaly
Country: Greece
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2 Policy context

2.1 Policy instrument – Regional Solid Waste Management Plan of Thessaly

The Action Plan aims to impact:	☐	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
	☐	European Territorial Cooperation programme
	X	Other regional development policy instrument

The main objective of project OptiWaMag is to demonstrate how the development of the current waste infra-structure in urban spaces and in households can deliver sustainable solutions through the exchange of good practices. OptiWaMag aims to "… improve Structural Funds' policies and implementation related to waste management and enhance regional and interregional ecosystems. OptiWaMag recognises that effective, policy shaping outcomes require enhanced cooperation between involved stakeholders. The policy project will thus incorporate interregional collaboration, involving a wide range of expert stakeholders, which comprises exchange of good practices, mutual learning, peer assessment, knowledge transfer, targeted coaching, and collective, co-designed policy development. It will deliver its results through interlinked project activities and outputs during 3 sequential steps:

1) Identification and Analysis;

2) Interregional Mutual Learning;

3) Knowledge Transfer and Action Planning.

Steps 1 and 3 also include assessments of policy enhancement and learning performance. Wide dissemination of good practices and lessons are the backbone of OptiWaMag.

The primary outputs include:

- The project self, peer and expert assessment tools and findings focused on regions' strengths, weaknesses, policy priorities and policy enhancements

- A Framework Strategy for developing evidence based and co-designed policies, programmes, and implementation methods and for identifying the best method to improve policy instruments;

- 6 Regional Action Plans (enhanced by the Framework Strategy, pre and interim self-assessments and Advisory Board case study) to enhance the implementation of regional policy instruments across Europe."

Initially the related policy instrument tackled by the Region of Thessaly in the framework of the OptiWaMag project was the Regional Operational Programme (ROP) of Thessaly and in particular the TO 06 "Preservation and protection of the environment and promotion of resource efficiency", and the IP 6a "Investments in the waste sector in order to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquits and address the needs that have been identified by the Member States for investments exceeding those requirements".

However, taking into account that all resources under the aforementioned investment priority have been already allocated, the policy instrument was changed to the **updated Regional Solid Waste Management Plan of Thessaly (RSWMP)**, which is currently under revision.

Following the European Directives, Regulations and Decisions, Greece aims to establish a consistent regulatory framework on waste management aiming to reduce the negative environmental and health impacts and create an energy and resource-efficient economy. The Greek legislative framework with respect to solid waste management and treatment includes three (3) basic categories that have been successfully incorporated from the European legislative framework: i) Framework Legislation on Solid Waste, ii) Legislation on Waste Management Operations and iii) Legislation on Packaging Waste and on Specific Waste Streams.

Based on the above the Law 4042/2012 "on the protection of the environment through Criminal Law – Compliance with Directive 2008/99/EC – Framework for waste generation and management – Compliance with Directive 2008/98/EC – Setting matters of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change" were adopted. According to that, the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy being responsible for policy

making, national planning, technical matters, as well as licensing and regulating the financing of large waste treatment and disposal facilities developed in 2015 the National Solid Waste Management Plan (NSWMP), in conformity with 2008/98/EC Directive. Following, 13 Regional Solid Waste Management Plans (RSWMP) were adopted by the 13 Administrative Regions, that are responsible for the administration of local matters at regional level, to set the objectives and actions of integrated solid waste management.

However, after the failure to meet the targets set in 2015, the new updated NSWMP for 2020-2030, developed by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, has been approved in September 2020 and anticipates to progressively reduce the amount of waste that ends up at landfills to 10% by the end of the decade, considering that currently 80% of waste ends up at landfills. The plan also foresees an end to uncontrolled waste disposal and the rehabilitation of illegal landfills by 2022, while the overall aim is to increase recycling rates of municipal waste up to 55% in 2025 and 60% in 2030 (including composting), to separate the collection of organic waste and develop the required infrastructure throughout the country by 2022, as well as to increase the energy production from waste to 10% and 25% in 2025 and 2030, respectively.

Recently, following closely the development of European waste management and the corresponding Directives the enactment of Law 4819/2021 came into force on 23 July 2021, which concerns waste management, plastic products and the protection of the environment, incorporating the EU directives of the second European Action Plan for the Circular Economy (2020) (i.e., EU Directive 2018/851 on waste and EU Directive 2018/852 on packaging and packaging waste) into the national legislation. The main objectives of law 4819/2021 include the induction of landfill tax, set measures to limit the disposal of single use plastic, introduction of new waste separation schemes and Pay as You Throw (PAYT) schemes, while introducing reuse in addition to recycling targets.

The updated regulatory framework on solid waste promotes the waste hierarchy, in terms of what's more beneficial to the environment. This ranking system serves to set priorities for national policies, giving the top priority to waste prevention, followed by re-use, recycling, other methods of recovery and finally disposal.

The RSWMP of Thessaly will be in accordance with the requirements of the Law 4819/2021 and in conformity to the National Solid Waste Plan of Greece (NSWMP) for 2020–2030, adapted for the region of Thessaly in order to set the objectives and actions of integrated management of solid waste, that include temporary storage, shipment, transport, treatment, recovery and disposal of solid waste at regional level. Municipalities also have the responsibility for some aspects of planning and must adopt the guidelines of the RWSMP within the territorial jurisdiction. The RSWMP will replace the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan published in 2016 and creating synergy and complementing the measures included in the Action Plan to promote the waste

hierarchy, to facilitate the transition to a more circular economy and to limit the greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, the RSWMP needs to:

- assess the current regional situation and project on future waste generation and treatment,
- assess previous goals,
- review new and ongoing projects,
- assess and if possible, integrate the objectives and strategies of National Plan at Thessaly,
- set regional waste management objectives & targets until 2025,
- define strategy to attain set goals.

The responsible institution for the elaboration and approval of RSWMP is **the Department of Environment & Spatial Planning of the Region of Thessaly.** It must be noted that although foreseen, the Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (WMA) has not been formed yet. Therefore, the competent authorities for the implementation of the regional plan at local level are the following Solid Waste Management Associations (SWMA) which include the municipalities of the relevant Regional Units:

- PADYTH S.A (RU of Trikala and RU of Karditsa)
- SWMA of RU of Larissa
- SYDISA S.A (RU of Magnesia)

Other stakeholders involved are the Municipalities, development agencies, business sector representatives, industry associations, enterprises, and experts.

Linking RSWMP with other policy planning documents:

- National Solid Waste Management Plan for 2020–2030
- National waste management Law 4819/2021
- National Energy and Climate Plan for 2020–2030
- Energy and Climate law - draft

2.2. Background situation in the waste management sector of Thessaly

Greece, like many European countries, faces significant challenges regarding waste management mainly due to growth in waste generation in the last decades. The Region of Thessaly as part of the northern Greece, with a surface area of 14.037 km^2, deals with similar problems. The population of the region is 732.762 inhabitants, representing the 6.8% of the total population of the country (52 inhabitants/km^2). The Municipal Waste Generation of Thessaly rises to 344.793 tn/year and 477 kg/inhabitant/year (2019 reference year). Currently, the 88,88% of the municipal waste generated ends up at nearby landfills. The composition of municipal waste in the region is depicted in the figure below.

Figure 1: Municipal waste composition of Thessaly

The separate collection of municipal waste in Thessaly, like in the rest of the country, mainly applied to composite packaging in the blue bin through the existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme. Currently, the printed paper is being collected in the blue bin along with the packaging due to the lack of an established EPR scheme. The sorted composite packaging (blue bin) in the Thessaly rises at 26,6% of the total municipal waste. The recovery though recycling, including industrial and household packaging as well as the printed paper is about 11,12%, whereas the regional target of RSWMP of 2016 was set at 50%. Environmental awareness is growing in the area but is still at relatively low level. Although people try to recycle there is still considerable ratio of material that should not be in the blue bin. This means that awareness of the public could be improved. Awareness campaigns can be introduced to increase the quality of the material collected in the blue bin and other separate collection schemes. In conformity to the national legislation, municipalities are obliged to set up waste separation for at least paper, glass, plastic, and metals for packaging and non-packaging throughout the country.

Separate collection of biowaste hasn't started yet in the region. The average municipal waste composition of Thessaly is 44,3% organic, leading up to potential of about 152.743 tn/year for biowaste. Since biowaste

comprises the biggest fraction of municipal waste, the diversion of this stream from landfills is essential. It must be noted that separate network for food waste and green waste form parks and garden needs to be established. Vegetable oils and fat require special management. According to Greece's regulatory framework, all biowaste must be segregated and managed accordingly by the end of the 2022.

Although foreseen, today there is no incentive systems applied to favour waste prevention and participation.

The waste management targets, set by the national regulatory framework, are:

- Recycling and reuse of waste: 55% in 2025; 60% in 2030
- Reduce the amount of waste landfilled to 10% in 2030
- Increase energy generated form waste to 10% in 2025
- Introduce separate collection scheme of at least paper, glass, plastic, and metals in 2022
- Biowaste segregation by the end of 2022
- Introduce the collection of sorted textiles and hazardous household waste from 2024.
- Induction of landfill tax by 2022
- Implementation of reuse centers at municipal level
- Introduction of PAYT schemes
- Implementation of extended producer collective schemes for new waste streams, such as agricultural plastics, mattresses, toys, pharmaceuticals, bikes, and others.

2.3. Main findings and conclusions of the OptiWaMag project in Thessaly

In the framework of the OptiWaMag project a survey was launched between 3-18 of November of 2020 and distributed to regional stakeholders that are either responsible or are related to the waste management of Thessaly. In total, forty-eight (48) questionnaires were completed, with full answers to the survey questions. As depicted in the figure below, most of survey respondents represent the local and regional administration authorities, including the Department of Environment & Spatial Planning, Solid Waste Management Associations, Municipalities, local authority development agencies (58%), the private sector, such as businesses, industries and professionals (19%), the business associations, such as chambers of commerce and associations of industries (13%) and other stakeholders, i.e. a university, professional chambers and hospitals (10%). Most

of the respondents (60%) are located and operate in the Regional Unit of Larissa, which is the administrative center of the Region of Thessaly. The aim of the survey was to document the opinions of the regional stakeholders regarding the waste management system of Thessaly.

The survey results were presented to the local stakeholders on 26 of November 2020. These indicate that although the majority of the participants has sufficient knowledge of waste management system, the level of satisfaction is considered rather low. The respondents highlighted critical problems and weaknesses, current strengths, actual needs, and future challenges of the existing waste management system. Based on the survey it can be concluded that the biggest challenge was the reduction of the waste generation.

In the framework of OptiWaMag, for a detailed analysis of the survey results (strengths and weaknesses) from the self-assessment the following were developed:

- Two (2) spider diagrams: one depicting the needs (interpreted as the priority interventions) one showing the strengths of the region,

- The SWOT analysis, based on the results of survey, in addition to analysis of policy documents and literature.

2.3.1. Self-assessment results

The OptiWaMag research results and the stakeholders' survey allow to draw conclusions about the waste management system for the Thessaly region, in addition to waste management operation in respective RUs and municipalities. Research results helped to reveal, which are the main strengths and weaknesses, as well as priorities of the regional waste management system and to be taken into consideration during the upcoming assessment and revision of the RSWMP.

According to the stakeholders' opinion the top strength of the Thessaly's waste management system (48%) is the Waste collection and home disposal followed by the Waste valorisation/Final treatment (26%), while the Economic incentives or sanctions (12%) is positioned on the third place (Figure 2).

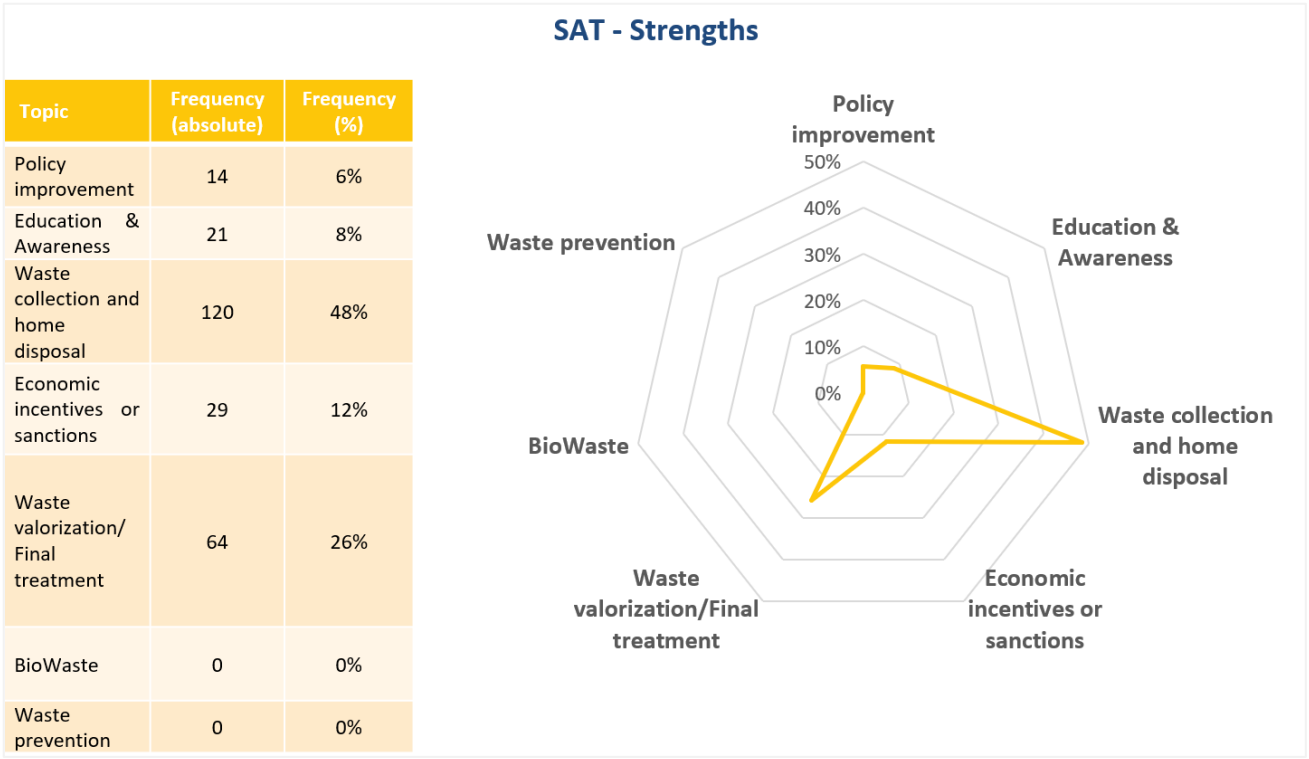

Figure 2: Thessaly's waste management system strengths

Regarding the interventions needed, the majority of the participants recognized the waste valorization/Final treatment as top priority intervention (31%), followed by waste collection and home disposal and the introduction of economic incentives or sanctions as the 3rd priority, as depicted in the following diagram (Figure 3).

SAT - Priority interventions

Topic	Frequency (absolute)	Frequency (%)
Policy improvement	17	13%
Education & Awareness	18	14%
Waste collection and home disposal	25	20%
Economic incentives or sanctions	19	15%
Waste valorization/ Final treatment	39	31%
BioWaste	5	4%
Waste prevention	4	3%

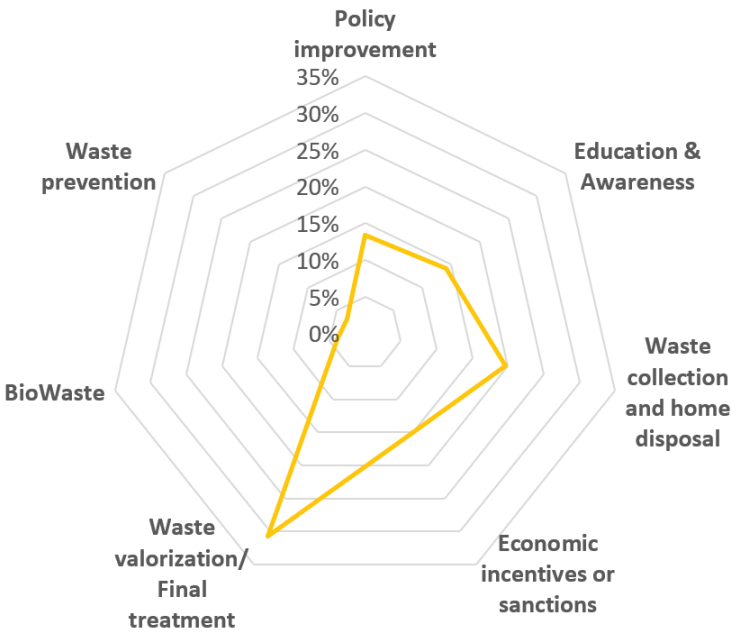

Figure 3: Thessaly's waste management system

2.3.2. Results of the SWOT analysis

This SWOT analysis reflected in Table 1 is based on the results of survey, along with the analysis of the relevant policy documents and literature.

Table 1: SWOT Analysis of the Implementation of RSWMP of Thessaly

Strengths	Weaknesses
• In general, a well-functioning waste management system • Hygienic and clean waste disposal system • Practical domestic waste sorting system • Established network of composite packaging waste • Waste to energy production	• Majority of waste ends to landfills • No organized waste separation besides composite packaging • Insufficient door-to-door collection system • Lack of financial incentives • Limited awareness activities • Insufficient sorting/treatment infrastructure • Low level of waste valorization • Low absorption of funding opportunities
Opportunities	**Threats**
• PAYT and deposit/return schemes • Induction of landfill tax by 2022 • Improve data collection and performance • Waste valorization systems • Promote public awareness and education to change citizens attitude and behavior • Producer extended responsibility schemes • Potential interregional collaboration on waste energy production unit • Subsidies	• High levels of waste generation • Low levels of recycling • Recycling market problems • National and Regional WMP not fully applied • Regional Solid Waste Management Authority not formed yet

2.4. Exchange of experience and good practices

2.4.1. Exchange of experience during Phase 1

The self-assessment research has been the main activity during Phase 1 and thus discussed at several of the OptiWaMag interregional meetings. The assortment and classification in relation to the waste hierarchy of all Good Practices that were exchanged in the framework of OptiWaMag project was conducted, as presented in Figure 4. From the exchange of experience between the European partners it has been identified that the Region of Thessaly can learn the most from are Italy, Sweden, and Latvia.

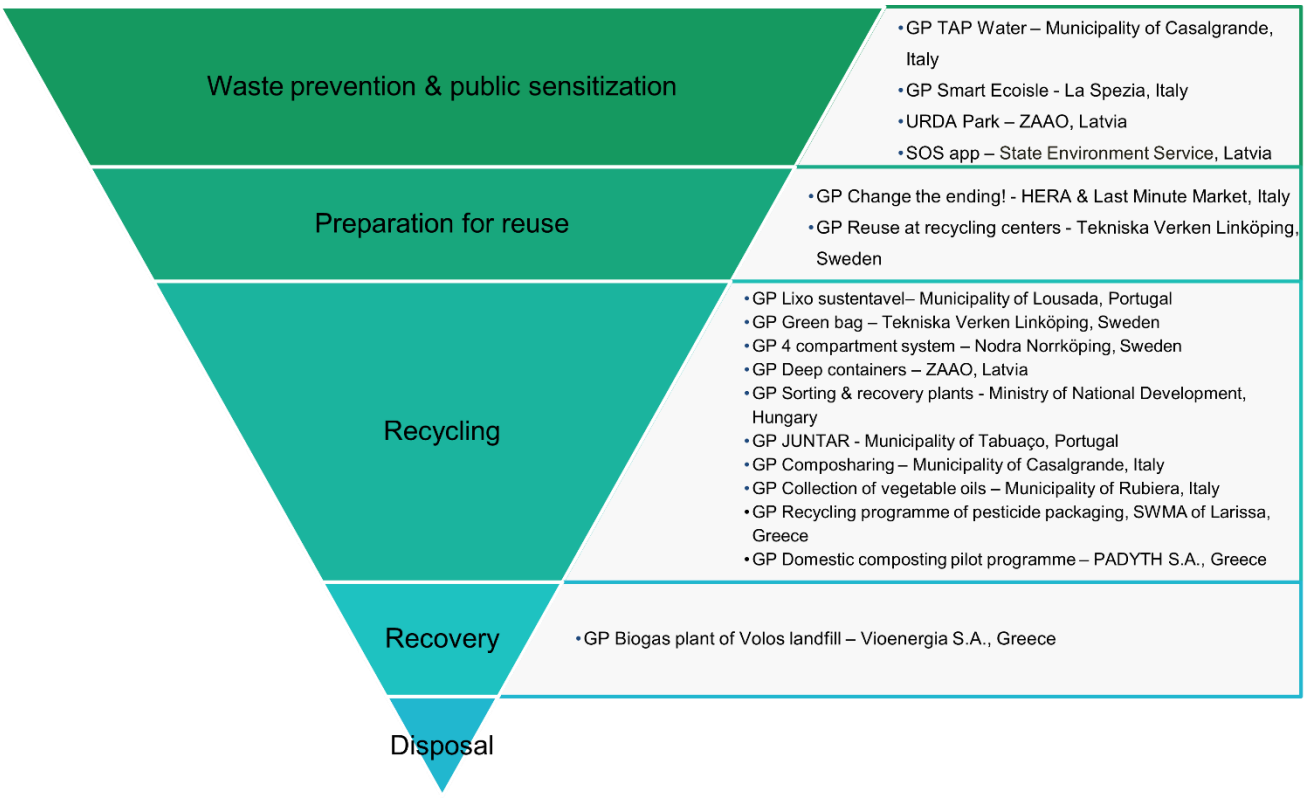

Figure 4: Classification of the Good Practices exchanged between partners

Based on the Good Practices that were presented to the OptiWaMag partners, Thessaly has found that practices that lead to waste reduction and diversion from landfilling through reuse activities and practices that promote the sorting at source are the most inspiring for the region, which namely are:

- "Change the Ending" of Emilia – Romagna, Italy
- "Smart Ecoisle" of La Spezia, Italy
- "Lixo Sustentável" of Municipality of Lousada, Portugal
- "Reuse halls at the recycling centers" of Tekniska Verken i Linköping, Sweden
- "The method of sorted waste collection by deep containers" of ZAAO Ltd, Latvia

The self-assessment and interregional learning in the OptiWaMag project have resulted in productive discussions and presentations among the regional stakeholder meetings. This has also helped to highlight existing problems of the waste management policy, identify the needs, set priorities, and identify possible solutions for improving the efficiency of the waste management system of Thessaly.

4 Details of the actions envisaged

4.1 ACTION 1 – Network of Creative Reuse Centers

4.1.1 Description of the action

The action includes the set up and operation of a network of Creative Reuse Centers (CRCs), publicly accessible, in the region of Thessaly. The CRC collects usable materials, products, or surplus supplies from individuals or businesses, if needed, repairs them, and subsequently redistributes them to the community for reuse. The activities involved in a CRC entail the collection, assortment, repair, and storage of the reused products. The accepted items at CRCs can potentially be every used object, such as electrical and electronic equipment, toys, furniture, books, bikes, and clothing.

The CRC network will accommodate the needs of every municipality of Thessaly. Specifically, the CRCs will be located so that every municipality of Thessaly above 20.000 inhabitants will be supported. In the case of smaller municipalities, intermunicipal collaborations will be examined. The operation of CRC at municipal level is obligatory by the end of 2023 in accordance with the national regulatory framework.

Based on the current legal framework, the reuse priority measure is positioned high on the waste management hierarchy. Reusing diverts objects from the waste stream and is an efficient way to reduce the environmental impact of waste, leading to a more circular economy. Implementation of the CRCs makes an impact on the RSWMP planning, offering an important contribution to the waste management system.

The Action of a network of CRCs in the region of Thessaly is a new project introduced to the targeted PI, the updated RSWMP of Thessaly, as an embedded priority intervention of the next 5 years, aiming to improve the PI by motivating the public and offering a way to attain the set of regional goals for reusing in Thessaly, while respecting the waste hierarchy. New funding opportunities for the Action are going to be explored through the PI addressed.

In terms of environmental sustainability, implementing CRCs is important for promoting the reuse of resources instead of wasting them, while enhancing the efforts to reach the quantitative targets set by National and Regional (legal framework) policies for 2025 and 2030 in the Region of Thessaly. Specifically, the national target for reuse and recycling is set at 55% in 2025 and 60% in 2030. Moreover, by diverting the reused objects from the waste stream leads to reduction in waste disposal and raise the waste prevention while limiting the greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the operation of a CRC in proximity to the inhabitants can act as a measure to incentivize the take up of reusable products and can ensure the dissemination of information and awareness programs for the progressive increase in the number of collecting further useful products.

The social benefits of a network of CRCs at regional level are the following:

- enhance citizen engagement and participation
- alleviate unemployment, especially in the repair sector in the area,
- help vulnerable social groups by offering the repaired and/or reused objects

Transitioning to more circular systems of consumption can impact the employment sector as well. Repair and maintenance activities can provide new job opportunities to the people of the area, especially since they are labour intensive.

Having an opportunity to learn from an interregional experience is particularly valuable in this initial stage the reuse process. As we learned from the Good Practice of "Reuse halls at the recycling centers" in Sweden, the CRCs can be located in the area of the recycling centers, creating an one-stop site for recycling and reuse. Furthermore, by utilizing unemployed individuals or volunteers as in the case of Good Practice of Sweden and Italy this Action can provide social benefits as well.

Also, from the point of Good Practice of Italy, "Change the ending!", we gathered the importance of collaboration between volunteers, non-profit organisations and local authorities to promote social incentivization. Additionally, the option of offering a home collection of bulky items free of charge as in the case of the aforementioned Good Practice of Italy can be examined as well.

Moreover, there are existing CRCs that operate in Western Macedonia in Greece with relative success that the Action can draw conclusions and lessons from. The Region of Thessaly, also, examines, the possibility of mobile CRCs that operate peripherally to the stationary CRCs as a means of incentivization of the public.

4.1.2 Stakeholders involved

Region of Thessaly is responsible for supervising the activities involved. The development, implementation, and monitor the CRCs requires the collaboration between the Solid Waste Management Associations and the respective Municipalities of the RUs as follows:

- PADYTH S.A (RU of Trikala and RU of Karditsa)
- SWMA of RU of Larissa
- SYDISA S.A (RU of Magnesia)

Potentially, a collaboration between volunteers, non-profit organizations, businesses, and local authorities can be part of the Action.

4.1.3 Timeframe

The planned schedule is included in the following table:

No.	Activity	Deadline
1.	Preparation of the proposal	June 2022 – September 2022
2.	Submission of proposal	September 2022 – December 2022
3.	Evaluation - Approval	January – March 2023
4.	Establishment of Creative Reuse Centers	July 2023

4.1.4 Funding sources

Funding of construction and operation of CRC can be sought from the EU structural funds and the national budget and more particular from the Operational Programmes 2021-2027 of the Ministry of Environment & Energy and from the Ministry of Interior.

4.1.5 Monitoring and evaluation

Region of Thessaly will continue to use the collaboration platform developed within the OptiWaMag for the implementation of CRCs and together with the stakeholder group will monitor the progress and evaluate the results of it.

4.2 ACTION 2 – Recycling Corners

4.2.1 Description of the action

The action is about sorting at source via Recycling Corners (RCs) throughout the Thessaly region. The RCs are small, public, or private areas, without fencing or any other constructions, where people can dispose the sorted dry recyclable or used items in the separate containers that are subsequently collected, in order to be recycled or reused. The acceptable waste streams, and their respective European Waste Codes (EWC), in the recycling corners, according to current national legislation, are the following:

- Metals (20 01 40 & 15 01 04)
- Paper and cardboard (20 01 01 & 15 01 01)

- Plastics (20 01 39 & 15 01 02)
- Glass (15 01 07)
- Composite packaging (15 01 05)
- Edible oil and fat (20 01 25)
- Discarded electrical and electronic equipment (20 01 35* & 20 01 34)
- Batteries and accumulators (20 01 33 & 20 01 34)

Due to highly complex and mixed composition of municipal waste, sorting at source is considered the most efficient way to improve resource efficiency, attain the regional quantitative recycling targets in line with National and European regulatory framework and have an impact on the climate and human health. Although a significant investment is required in order to enable the waste segregation, sorting at direct proximity to the waste generated is the first step in preventing landfilling and move towards recovery and recycling, meeting the requirements for environmental and financial assurance in the long-term. To promote this practice, RCs stand as one-point collection facilities for multiple sorted recyclables, encouraging and facilitating people to separate waste at home and recycle using the right containers.

The separate collection for, at least, paper, glass, plastic, and metals is considered critical to reach the recycling targets set by European and National regulatory framework. As of 2021, the collection of sorted paper, glass, plastic, and metals organized by municipalities is, also, mandated by national legislation. The updated RSWMP of Thessaly, the targeted PI, must implement and integrate this policy measure, and the respective objectives for the region of Thessaly with an effective recycling sorting scheme. The implementation of the Action of RCs as an embedded new project to the RSWMP of Thessaly aims to improve the PI addressed by offering an effective sorting-at-source scheme in order to reach the regional recycling targets. The Action involves installing RCs near apartment buildings in residential areas and at high traffic spots in the urban environment. The four (4) largest cities of Thessaly in which the establishment of the network of RCs will initiate, include Larissa (144.651 population), Volos (86.046 population), Trikala (61.653 population), and Karditsa (38.554 population). New funding opportunities for the Action are going to be explored through the PI, which is currently under revision.

Surface or underground containers can be used for the storage of the recyclables or used items in the RCs. In case of the underground storage, like in the implementation of the Good Practice of deep containers of Latvia, the benefits include higher storage capacity, less disturbance to the urban development, and odor reduction in relation to the conventional bins. More specifically, “the method of sorted waste collection by deep containers”

run by ZAOO Ltd, the waste management organization of the Northern Vidzeme of Latvia, entails the collection of sorted waste in high-capacity containers involving twenty-eight (28) neighboring municipalities, resulting in less waste collection routes than in the case of conventional containers.

To make the waste collection more efficient, cost-effective, and eco-friendly, RCs can be equipped with a "smart" system that can monitor and track data about the wasted collected in the containers, as well as provide user identification and economic incentives in the form of vouchers or receipts. This can make the application of a PAYT scheme possible, realizing the benefits we gathered from the Good Practice of "Smart Ecoisle" of the city of La Spezia in Italy. This Good Practice of Italy via the use of "smart" containers and bags stands as a successful example of PAYT application that links the waste generated to the applied tariff, leading to both waste and consumption reduction and significant economic results. The reduction of waste fees for residents willing to recycle more as in the Good Practice "Lixo Sustentável" of Municipality of Lousada in Portugal offers a different financial incentive scheme. While in the case of the Good Practice of Portugal the collection, weighing and logging of the sorted recyclable materials takes place at the local Ecocenter, in the case of RCs the implemented smart system can enable the same functions closer to the source.

Additionally, the "smart" system used in RCs can deliver valuable insights to improve the route of the collection vehicles, leading to reduced collection and transportation costs, traffic disturbances and greenhouse gas emissions. Considering the extensive area of the Thessaly region and the fact that collection and transport can account for the largest fraction of the waste management costs, optimisation of the collection and transportation service can be advantageous for traffic flow, as well as environmental, and financial reasons.

It is expected that the OptiWaMag project will provide further opportunities for interregional learning that will be a source for innovative ideas for introducing solutions, especially regarding the separate waste collection system.

4.2.2. Stakeholders involved

The main stakeholders involved in this Action are the Region of Thessaly that will supervise the activities of the Action and the 3 SWMAs (PADYTH S.A, SWMA of Larissa and SYDISA S.A.) in collaboration with the municipalities of the region, which are responsible for the waste collection of RCs within their territorial jurisdiction.

4.2.3 Timeframe

The planned schedule is included in the following table:

No.	Activity	Deadline
1.	Preparation of the proposal	June 2022 – September 2022

No.	Activity	Deadline
2.	Submission of proposal	September 2022 – November 2022
3.	Evaluation - Approval	November 2022 – March 2023
4.	Establishment of Recycling Corners	May 2023

4.2.4 Funding sources

Funding of construction and operation of CRC can be sought from the EU structural funds and the national budget and more particular from the Operational Programmes 2021-2027 of the Ministry of Environment & Energy and from the Ministry of Interior.

4.2.5 Monitoring and evaluation

Region of Thessaly will continue to use the collaboration platform developed within the OptiWaMag for the implementation of CRCs and together with the stakeholder group will monitor the progress of the Action and evaluate the results of it.

Date: 06.07.2022

Name/ function: KONSTANTINOS AGORASTOS, GOVERNOR OF THE REGION OF THESSALY

Signature/ Stamp: