



**PROJECT CB007.1.32.318**

**«Protection and improvement of the environment in the cross-border region through composting of biodegradable waste»,  
co-financed by the EU through INTERREG-IPA cross-border  
cooperation programme Bulgaria - Serbia**

**Contract: CB007.1.32.318.03**

**”Providing consultancies for studies, assessments, plans”**

**SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE INTIAL CASE STUDY**

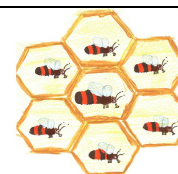
***Contracting Authority: „Bulgaria in Europe” Association, Vidin***

*March, 2017*



***Prime Consulting***

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## **METHODOLOGY**

The consultancy team of “Prime Consulting” Ltd. was engaged for this study. It proposed a methodology for implementation of the activity, developed the questionnaire, conducted field study and elaborated summary and analysis of the study results.

The aim of the study is to identify the level of information of the target groups in Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria on waste management, definition and benefits of composting of biodegradable waste, circular economy issues and also the motivation of the beneficiaries to reuse the organic waste generated and to compost it.

Territorial scope of the study: Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria. Respondents from all types of settlements are included in the study, including district administrative center, municipal administrative centers, other towns and villages in the target region.

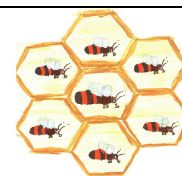
Target groups: Households, agriculture producers, local public administration, central public administration on local level, other interested parties.

Period of implementation of the study: February – March 2017.

Methodology:

- Cameral study;
- Elaboration of initial work schedule;
- Development of “entering” questionnaire, consistent with the specifics of Vidin district;
- Discussion and approval of the questionnaire by the Contracting authority;
- Identifying of the target groups and potential respondents;
- Visit of the target region, contacts with the recipients, meetings, interviews with the identified recipients, filling in the questionnaire;
- Summary, assessment and analysis of the collected information;
- Development of needs assessment of the target groups and final report with results, conclusions, and recommendations.

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Data collection method: descriptive. The study is based on obtaining primary data through questionnaires - respondents read the questions and answer.

Total number of questionnaires filled in: 109.

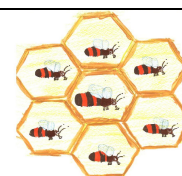
Team on the spot: 2 interviewers.

Preparation of analysis, needs assessment, report: 2 experts.

## IDENTIFIED NEEDS

1. Conducting public information-motivation campaign with focus on the people declared higher level of generated waste.
2. Conducting strong awareness campaign, supported by stimulating measures for the population in order to minimize waste disposal up to 10 % and clarifying the necessity and positives of the separate collection.
3. Implementation of information campaigns about benefits of composting among target groups – economical, environmental, physical (structural) benefits, chemical, biological benefits, etc., as well as presentation of instructions, guidelines, advises, practical examples for correct composting.
4. Implementation of comprehensive information campaign for composting and its effect on the human health and the environment.
5. Implementation of public information-motivation campaign with focus on the people declaring higher level of generated biowaste, with aim to waste prevention or reuse through composting.
6. Implementation of information campaign from the composting benefits on the one side, and on the other side, the harms and damages from the unauthorized biowaste treatment – in short and in long term.
7. Implementation of detailed promotional campaigns among the community aiming to introduce all direct and indirect effects of the composting on the environment and on the human health.
8. Implementation of information campaign about composting with focus on minimizing the negative effects of composting and proposing practical solutions of the arisen problems.

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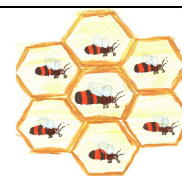


9. Creation of prerequisites, stimulating the population to compost.
10. Research of the financial opportunities for delivery and distribution of separate waste collection containers aiming to apply the so called home composting system.
11. Establishment of broad waste collection and transportation network of the separate collected waste in the settlements of Vidin district.
12. Increase of the control from the authorized bodies over the types of waste disposed by the citizens in the separate waste collection containers.
13. Necessity for imposing penalties on people breaking the rules and burning their biowaste.
14. Strengthening the control from the authorized bodies over the waste collecting companies during the transportation and disposal of the separate collected waste and packages waste.
15. Strong control from the authorized bodies on the separate waste collection, including separate biowaste collection.
16. Imposing financial and/or material incentives for citizens, which collect the waste separately.
17. Imposing the principle «Polluter pays».
18. Assignment of the waste fee on the base of the waste quantity.
19. Necessity of detailed presentation of different types composting systems – with their advantages and shortcomings.
20. Necessity of broader promotion in front of the society of Vidin district of the project „Establishment of regional waste management system in Vidin region", implemented investment measures, regarding solid municipal waste and biowaste management on the territory of the district and presentation of the possibilities of the built installation for biodegradable waste composting.
21. Implementation of awareness campaign about waste hierarchy leading to sustainable solutions and closing the loop in resource management and reuse.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE RESPONDENTS**

1. Distribution of free composters to all households;

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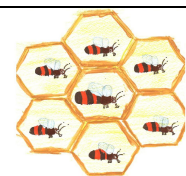


2. Building of composting platforms;
3. Financial incentives, tax reliefs for composting people;
4. Implementation of awareness and motivation campaigns;
5. Implementation of regular initiatives for enhancement of composting, including demonstrations and practical examples;
6. Strict control and imposing penalties of the violators;
7. Applying of approved successful practices in the waste management from other countries;
8. Support and motivations from the public authorities.

## MAIN CONCLUSIONS

1. Interviewed 109 respondents from the settlements of Vidin district.
2. The aim of the study is to identify the level of information of the target groups in Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria regarding waste management, composting of biodegradable waste and its benefits, circular economy issues and closing the loop, as well as to assess the motivation of the beneficiaries to reuse generated organic waste and compost it;
3. Average generated waste per capita on annual basis are much below the average EU rate – below 300 kg per capita compared to 477 kg per capita on EU level;
4. Average generated waste per capita on annual basis are much below the average national rate – below 300 kg per capita compared to 419 kg per capita on national level in Bulgaria;
5. There is a very high percentage of biodegradable and recycling waste, which contributes to the achievement of up to 10 % target for disposed waste to 2030;
6. Relatively high share of the respondents declare separate waste collection – 33 %;
7. Around ¼ of the respondents have composted or are composting at the moment in a way or another;
8. At the moment around ¼ of the people are composting – in a special composter or in a composting mixture in the garden;

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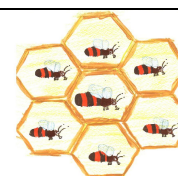


9. The majority know undoubted and proven composting benefits, a deeper presentation of the composting effect is needed, thus increase the motivation;
10. Necessity for conducting of trainings, providing instructions, guidelines and advices for composting;
11. Relatively high willingness for composting among the population – over half of the respondents declare they are ready to compost;
12. Among the main obstacles for composting is lack of composters, which is supported by the fact that 80 % would start composting if they receive a free composter;
13. Biggest part of the respondents point out that they would use the produced compost for their private purposes;
14. The most preferred composting systems are: home composting and collection and transportation of biowaste by a specialized company;
15. Respondents clearly indicated that additional financial incentives, tax reliefs, etc. are necessary, which motivate people to compost;
16. Annalysis of the collected information shows that the respondents support the principle „Polluter pays“ and calculating the waste fees on the base of the quantity of the generated/disposed waste;
17. Very low knowledge on the updates and trends in the waste management.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Composting provides all prerequisites in order to have key role in the waste management, therefore it has to be encouraged in the target region.
2. To be found different opportunities for motivating people to separate their waste including biodegradable fraction and participate in the process.
3. Providing of free services is a form for encouragement to the citizens. Those services could include free composters or free shredding of big green waste aiming composting “on site”.
4. Organisation of purposeful information campaigns including dissemination of information amterials and instructions, written on a popular style, with good practices, as well as meetings with local society in the form of informal discussions, which could be used for presentation of more detailed information.

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5. For the successful motivation special attention will be paid on the content of the information campaigns, by focusing on the economic benefits of the process, available composting opportunities and clearly defining of the supporting measures.
6. Awareness campaigns should present detailed information about the positives and effects of the composting on the environment and human health.
7. Implementation of large-scale information campaigns should support the efforts of the local public administration for applying of the composting systems.

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