

TRIP TO AUSTRIA

In the framework of the project LIFE-Environment COMWASTE a trip to Austria was organized and took place from 6th to 8th of April 2006. During this trip, a significant number of information was gathered which was very useful for the implementation of the last stage of the COMWASTE project and in particular, the materialization of Task 6. More specific:

- Information was gained and experience was exchanged on the way through which the Municipal Association for Waste Management of the Tulln Region of Austria (GVA TULLN) has organized its program for the collection and management of household waste in the area and how the Association has set its organizational structures in order to carry out its activities. These information was of a great importance for the COMWASTE project since they were used as an input for the development of the framework of specifications for the implementation of the household composting program in a large scale application (Task 6)
- Information was received on the incentives that are being provided to the citizens in order to increase their participation level in the activities of recovery of materials from the household waste (evaluation of the efficiency of these incentives in practice). This outcome was very important for the purposes of the COMWASTE project since one of the deliverables of the Task 6 of the project is the setting of incentives that assist to the promotion of the implementation of the program in larger scale.
- Information was get and experience was exchanged on the way that the Association develops its communication strategy. This outcome was considered as a useful input for setting up the after – LIFE communication and dissemination plan for the COMWASTE project.
- Discussion took place on the economic aspects of the program which is being implemented in the area by the Municipal Association. The result of this discussion assisted to the development of the preliminary tecno-economic study for the implementation of the household composting system in a large scale (deliverable of Task 6 of the project).
- On sight picture related to the way that the citizens separate their organic household waste at source, was obtained.
- Discussion took place between the Greek participants and the Austrian citizens on issues that are related to the participation of the last ones in the recycling program which is being implemented by the Municipal Association (in order to gather information, on a first hand basis, about the level of: i. the easiness in order to participate in such a program, ii. the collaboration with the personnel of the Association, iii. the gratification of their participation in the program iv. the time that is needed in order to separate their household waste etc. The outcome was very important for the development of the framework of specifications for the implementation of the household composting program in a large scale application (Task 6)
- Discussion took place on the legal and technical premises for the application of composting practices (household composting and composting at central installations) with representatives of the consortium “Biogas & Compost”. From

the discussion it was arisen that the household composting is a competitive and efficient alternative practice for the management of the household biodegradable organics which presents a high level of applicability.

The persons from the National Technical University of Athens and the three Greek Municipalities which participated in this trip were:

1. **Konstantinos Moustakas** –NTUA
2. **Anna Korogiannaki** –Anaptyxiaki Kifisias
3. **Eleni Agrogianni** - Anaptyxiaki Kifisias
4. **Anastasia Katara** – Municipality of Acharnes
5. **Anastasios Vrettos** - Municipality of Acharnes
6. **Andreas Tsiantis** – Municipality of Nea Halkidona
7. **Konstantinos Plessas** - Municipality of Nea Halkidona

As it is shown in the agenda of the trip (it is attached at the end of this deliverable), the activities that took place included two individual parts. The first part referred to the meetings that the Greek participants had with representatives of the Austrian Authorities and actors (on 7th of April 2006) while the second one referred to site visits to household waste management installations (on 6th to 8th of April 2006). In particular:

Meetings:

A meeting between the Greek participants and representatives of the Municipal Association for Waste Management of the Tulln Region of Austria (GVA TULLN) in the premises of the Town Hall of Tulln took place, where an extensive discussion was developed on the topics mentioned above and additionally, a presentation was made by Ing. Siegfried Schonbauer - representative of the Austrian Municipal Association. The main issues of the presentation were:

- Legislative framework that governs the management of the solid and household waste in the country
- Organisation chart and responsibilities of the Association
- Types of household waste that are collected and materials that are recycled
- Quantitative and qualitative data and information of the materials that are recovered from the mixed household waste (on annual basis and time trend)
- Quantitative and qualitative data and information of the biodegradable household organic waste (Kitchen waste) that is recovered and composted (on annual basis and time trend)
- Quantitative and qualitative data and information of household green waste that is recovered and composted (on annual basis and time trend)
- Collection and transport logistics concerning biodegradable household organic waste and mixed household waste
- Composting process that is applied for the treatment of the biodegradable household organic waste, separated at source

- Treatment (composting) logistics concerning biodegradable household organic waste and mixed household waste
- Quantities of kitchen waste that is recovered at source and composted per inhabitant
- Level of response of the citizens as well as level of compliance of the citizens with the instructions and the guidelines which are provided to them by the of the

A meeting between the Greek participants and representatives of the consortium of “Biogas & Compost” took place, where issues related to the composting practices of the household organic waste were discussed in detail. Also, the director of the consortium, DI Manfred Swoboda, made a presentation on the legal and technical premises for composting practices.

In the following, a set of pictures that were taken during the trip to Austria is presented.