

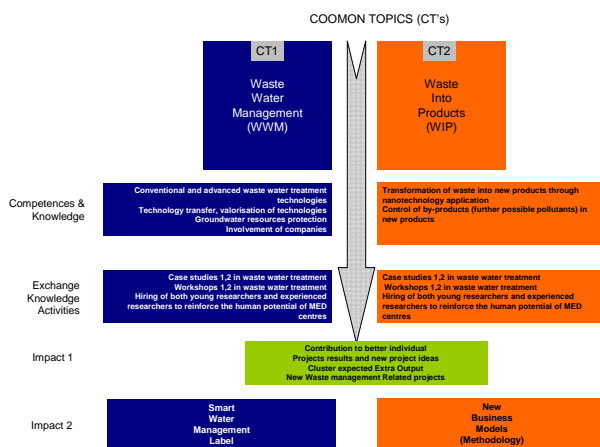
CONNECTING CLUSTERS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE (REGIONS)

CLUSTER ASSOCIATION. WASTECLUSTER INITIATIVE

START: 01/12/2009 END:30/11/2012

OBJECTIVES

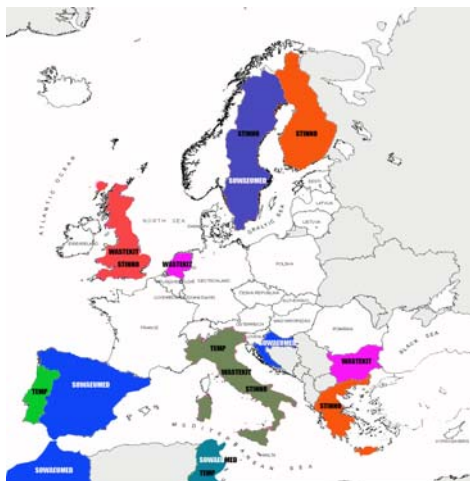
- Creation of an international balanced network of (regional) waste management-related clusters, for mutual learning and exchange of knowledge, skills, training opportunities and technologies that will lead to an optimization of waste management-related innovation and competitiveness excellence.
- Stimulate the innovation and business creation by the expansion and enhancement of a network of regional waste management-oriented clusters, not only circumscribed at a European dimension but also considering Mediterranean Partner Countries MPCs, thus maximizing the usage of knowledge spillovers.
- Concentration of complementary activities with intensive interaction, achieving extraordinary performance and competitiveness, obtaining benefits for industry, society and research.



- Establish a base or platform where clusters can meet each other, detecting new opportunities, new calls, projects, pool practices or build stronger consortiums in order to submit more effective proposals.

CONSORTIUM BY CLUSTER/ REGIONS

- Partners from ongoing projects **SOWAEUMED, ST Inno, WASTEKIT and TEMP**
- Europe, Associate States as well MPCs
- Integration of actors of the triple helix model (institutions, companies [including SMEs], regional or local authorities or related economic development organisations)



EXPECTED IMPACT

- Better access of new member states to the community instruments increasing the return on public expenditure.
- Act as catalysts for further development and investments in RTD, innovation, business creation, clustering and international collaboration, with specific regions of third countries .
- Enable a leverage for knowledge-based and technology-enabled economic development potentials in the field of waste management and its related sectors.



- Stimulate the actuation of their members to transform research output (knowledge, patents) into new products, new services, new companies and new markets via technology development (new technologies, enabling technologies, disruptive technologies), relevant skills and transfer & diffusion mechanisms.
- Offer stronger opportunities for more regions into the Regions of Knowledge initiative, into the knowledge economy and the ERA, especially through the mentoring of regions with a less developed research profile providing guidance or solutions and taking positions in the worldwide competitiveness arena to contribute to climate change measures, emission reductions and environmental risk assessment.

FIRST OUTCOMES

WASTE CLUSTER INITIATIVE / BROKERAGE EVENT / SWOT AND SOR ANALYSIS

Strengths		Opportunities	
S1	Infrastructure for solid waste- and wastewater characterisation (chemical, biological, ... characteristics)	O1	Available databases of projects, results, technology available
S2	Know-how among the researchers, helicopter view	O2	Awareness in society about waste problems
S3	Strong in protecting ground water	O3	Funding opportunities in the EU
S4	Openness towards collaboration, initiatives, idease	O4	Availability of valorisation technologies
S5	Infrastructure for waste treatment	O5	Entrepreneurial potential to do business
Weaknesses		Threats	
w1	Lack of knowledge transfer	T1	No broad strategy for technology transfer and innovation
w2	Lack of business development	T2	Competition with China
w3	Poor IP management	T3	Slow reaction of public policy and regulation on research findings
w4	No representation of business in universities	T4	Different orientation of business community
w5	No research performance indicators	T5	Political short term thinking

