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Boosting Employability through Circularity of Bio-waste in Rural Areas

BECBA

Comparative Assessment of Rural and Circular Practices
in Albania, Austria, Greece, and Kosovo



This report provides an in-depth analysis of bio-waste management practices, laws, regulations, and institutional frameworks in four countries: Albania, Austria, Greece, and Kosovo.

By bringing together the best practices and resources from each country, BECBA can help promote sustainable and effective bio-waste management practices throughout the Balkan region.

Comparative analysis of Laws, regulation and institutional framework for bio-waste management Laws, regulations, and institutional frameworks are crucial to ensure proper bio-waste management. They provide guidelines and standards for waste generators, handlers, and disposal facilities, helping to minimize negative impacts of bio-waste on human health and the environment. They also promote resource conservation and sustainability. There has been a growing focus on sustainable ways of utilizing bio-waste in recent years. Instead of considering it as a waste product, it can be treated as a valuable resource that can contribute to the circular economy, creating new products and services. Bio-waste can be transformed into valuable materials, such as bioplastics, biofuels, biochar, and fertilizers. This not only reduces the pressure on landfills, but also promotes circular economy and reduces the reliance on finite resources. In this section, we explore the different laws, regulations, and institutional frameworks of bio-waste management in Austria, Albania, Greece and Kosovo.

Partnership Consortium

- Youth Ecological and Security Zone – EcoZ (Kosovo)
- Academy of Entrepreneurship – AKEP (Greece)
- alchemia-nova Research & Innovation gemeinnützige GmbH – ANRI (Austria)
- Environmental and Territorial Management Institute - ETMI (Albania)
- Let's Do It Peja – LDIP (Kosovo)



Austria

Austria leads in waste management with a comprehensive legal framework and initiatives promoting bio-waste recycling. Despite producing more municipal solid waste per capita than the EU average in 2014, Austria boasts a 31% organic waste recycling rate and minimal landfilling at 4%. Governed by the Waste Management Act 2002, Austria mandates separate biogenic waste collection since 1995 and regulates compost quality through the Compost Ordinance. The Circular Economy Action Plan underscores Austria's commitment to maximizing biomass utilization while minimizing waste. Despite challenges from other regulations inadvertently encouraging food waste, Austria remains dedicated to sustainable waste management practices.



Greece

Greece is taking significant steps in waste management, especially regarding organic or bio-waste. Defined by Law 4042/2012, bio-waste includes biodegradable materials from various sources like households and food processing plants. The National Waste Management Plan (NWMP), guided by laws like Law 4685/2020, aims to reduce landfill waste and mandates separate bio-waste collection starting December 31, 2022. Greece aligns with EU directives to minimize landfill waste and prevent pollution through incineration. The Integrated Waste Management System of Western Macedonia (IWMS) showcases Greece's commitment to advanced waste treatment technologies. With private sector involvement, Greece is enhancing waste management efficiency and sustainability, emphasizing comprehensive bio-waste management and environmental protection.



Albania

Albania's waste management framework mirrors EU legislation, aiming to meet recycling and waste diversion targets. Plans for 2021 focus on aligning Albanian laws with EU directives, including the European List of Waste and packaging producer responsibility obligations. The strategic policy document and national action plan for integrated waste management (2020-2035) emphasize transitioning to a circular economy and enhancing infrastructure for waste management. Laws such as those on environmental protection and integrated waste management provide the legal basis for waste management activities, while institutional bodies like the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy oversee strategy formulation and infrastructure development. Albania's commitment to waste management reform underscores efforts towards sustainable resource utilization and environmental protection.



Kosovo

In Kosovo, the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning, and Infrastructure (MESPI) leads waste management efforts through laws like 04/L-060 and 08/L-071, prioritizing environmental protection and human health. These regulations mandate separate collection and eco-friendly treatment of biodegradable waste, emphasizing prevention, reuse, recycling, and energy recovery over landfilling. Administrative Instruction No. 20/2014 provides specific guidelines for managing biodegradable waste, while the Kosovo Waste Management Strategy 2019-2028 promotes sustainable practices like separate bio-waste collection and composting. While public enterprises currently dominate waste management, efforts are underway to enhance private sector participation and reduce reliance on landfills, as outlined by the Landfill Management Company in Kosovo (KMDK S.A.). Kosovo is committed to advancing waste management infrastructure and fostering eco-conscious waste disposal methods in line with national strategies and legal frameworks.





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