

Employing circular economy approach for OFMSW management within the Mediterranean countries (CEOMED)

CEOMED project concerns the reduction and exploitation of organic wastes coming from local open markets which are widespread in the Mediterranean region. Local open market waste management, which represents a big challenge for the area, is directly affected by population growth and concentration, urbanization and tourism. For instance, the waste flow rate varies from 3 to 5 and 10 to 12 tons per day in the open markets located in Sfax (Tunisia) and Amman (Jordan), respectively. In view of the large influx of inhabitants expected in urban areas (72% of the population of the Mediterranean region will probably be living in urban areas in 2025), the sustainable management of waste in markets is now a priority. The objectives of the project are to reduce the municipal waste generation, promote source-separated collection and develop technologies for the optimal exploitation of the organic component by recovering energy and recycling nutrients. Additionally, the project will train local stakeholders, i.e. consumers, sellers, the informal sector of waste collecting, scholars, farmers, technical and administrative staff, to make sure they have the knowledge and skills to contribute to improving waste management.

Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH) participates into CEOMED contributing into all WPs but has a more active role in WP3 as a leader (Methodology for recollection/separation tailored to study areas) and in WP4 (experimentally and mathematically based AD optimization). Two research groups led by Katerina Stamatelatou and Ioannis Nikolaou from the Laboratory of Wastewater Management and Treatment Technologies and the Laboratory of Business and Environmental Technology Economics respectively will work in this project. More information can be found in <http://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/ceomed>