

LESSONS LEARNED FROM EUROPE – AN UPDATE

Background

In 2005 CIWM commissioned from consultants SLR the first Lessons Learned Report. This was a review of the National Waste Strategy for England (and Wales) 2000 identifying the progress since its publication in terms of legislation, targets, actions and contextual changes. The barriers to achieving the targets and objectives were considered as were the lessons from the devolved administrations, all of which (Wales included) had their own Waste Strategy. It went on to identify what CIWM saw as the key issues for the review which was underway in 2005.

Lessons Learned From Europe

The Report proved to be very valuable to those reviewing the Strategy for England and other individuals and organisations. As a direct consequence of this, CIWM commissioned a further Report (funded by Defra) which sought to widen the learning area into the European mainland. This Report entitled 'Delivering Key Waste Management Infrastructure: Lessons Learned from Europe' was published at the end of 2005. As the title suggests this study examined the different approaches used to facilitate the development of waste management infrastructure in ten selected EU Member States; Germany, Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, UK, Ireland and Spain.

By undertaking detailed analysis of cultural, policy, planning and financial features it was intended that the UK could learn from these countries' experience and that in turn would provide the basis for identifying the right mix of measures to enable successful development of new facilities to meet the requirements of EU legislation. The body of the Report involved a comparative performance review of the ten countries, identifying and analysing common themes, it culminated in conclusions and lessons learned.

The Report was funded by and its approach and content influenced by Defra and as a consequence it made a significant contribution to the thinking behind the National Waste Strategy for England 2007.

Update Proposal

In the intervening two years since the publication of the Report there have been many changes in the UK and more importantly within our European partners. We consider it is time to update the Report and to include further information. Feedback from readers and users of the Report has been most favourable including politicians, industry specialists and consultants benefiting from its strategic comparisons. Overseas, one operator in Flanders, considered the best performing region in Europe claims to use the Report as a reference document all the time. For our part, CIWM is proud to have been associated with such a ground breaking and informative piece of work. Updating the Report at this stage would keep us ahead of the game. Unfortunately funding is unlikely to be forthcoming from Defra so close to release of Strategy. This is a fast moving part of the sector and one which CIWM is helping policy developers. Similarly there are many initiatives which are common throughout Europe such as AWC, bag taxes and charging which we can learn before implementation in the UK.

The consultants that undertook the original piece of work, SLR have proposed to update the report including data and case studies as well as adding two further countries for comparative purposes using the same format. They have agreed to do this work for a total of £10K which includes a reduced rate (covering all reasonable expenses). The arrangements with SLR were excellent in the preparation of the Report and it is because of those working relationships and our status as a professional Institution that they wish to work again with us at a price that fits our budget.

Therefore we would like to request that the CIWM (EB) fund half of this with £5K and CIWM will provide the other half.

There will be no administrative burden upon the CIWM(EB).

Thank you.