



# Waste management during the COVID-19 pandemic

# Meet ACR+

The Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management

+100 members in 23 countries

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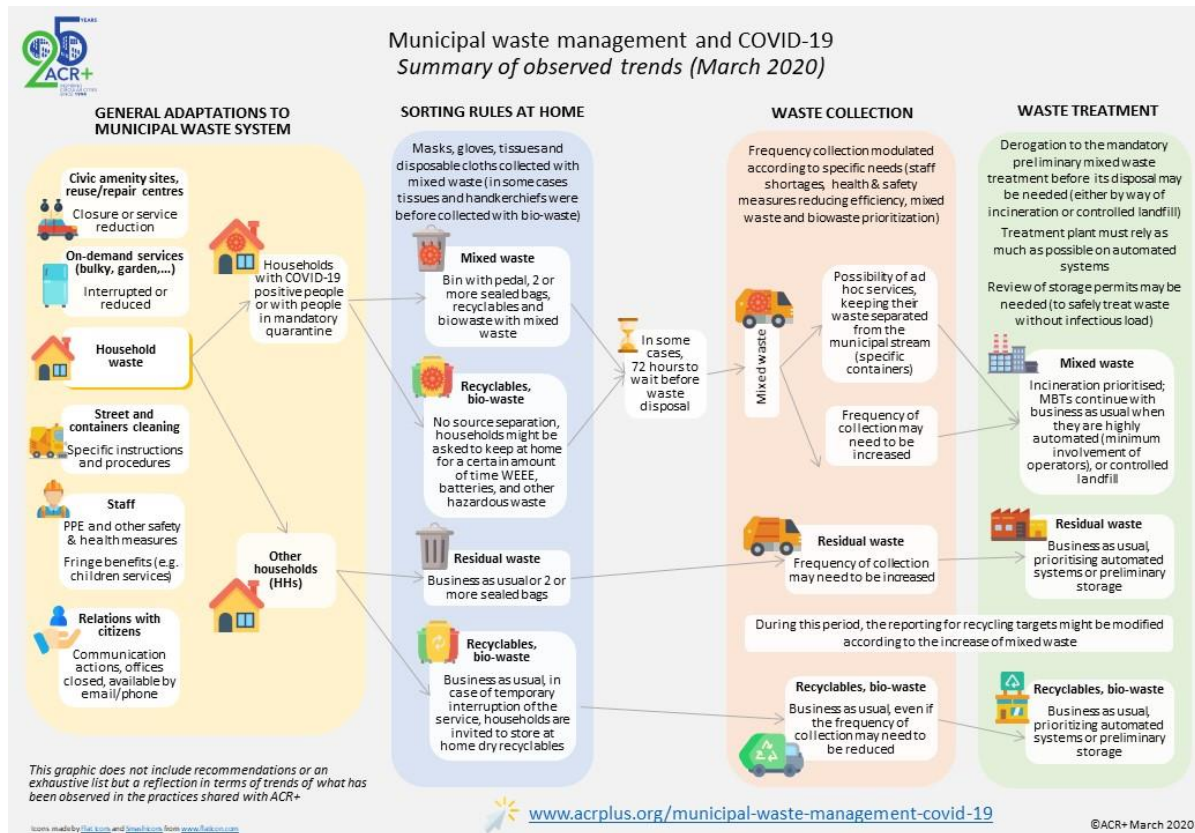
# ACR+ work on Covid-19

- Collection of information on local practices during the 1st lockdown
  - What local practices to cope with the new restrictions and sanitary considerations?
  - What regulations / instruments to help local waste collection systems ?
- Mid-2020: survey to ACR+ members to collect more information on the impact
  - Impact of the COVID-19 on waste generation and performances
  - Impact of local choices on performances
- Information collected from other sources and partners
- Focus on the first wave (March – July 2020)



# Main trends during the 1st wave

# Overview of the practices during the lockdowns



- Tried to keep waste separation running, emphasis on prevention
- General reduction of services
- Closure / reduced opening times for HWRC (lack of staff, or because of limited trips for the inhabitants)
- Shift of resources between collection services (sometimes HWRC to D2D)

<https://www.acrplus.org/en/municipal-waste-management-covid-19-phase1#austria>

<https://www.acrplus.org/en/municipal-waste-management-covid-19>

# Main trends during the first wave

## Ensuring the safety of the staff

- Interruption of several services
- Priorities given to door-to-door / bring banks
- Training and PPE
- Reorganisation of shifts, and collection teams

## Maintaining collection services

- High priority given to residual waste, food waste, medical waste, fly-tipping
- Medium priority: dry recyclable, civic amenity sites
- Low priority: on-demand bulky waste collection, garden waste

# Main trends during the first wave

## Operation of civic amenity sites

- Ensure social distancing
- Limit access to specific waste / online booking
- No manual handling by the staff

## Collection of COVID-infected households

- Separation and double-bagging of potentially infected waste
- Storage of recyclable
- Specific collection routes / inter-city cooperation

# Main trends during the first wave

## Communication

- Online communication
- Explanations of reasons behind changes
- Consistency with national guidelines and messages

## Littering

- Increased communication
- Increased fines



# ACR+ survey

- 16 respondents in 10 countries, representing 19 millions inhabitants
- Various contexts (urban, rural, tourism)
- Various collection organisation
- Challenging to provide monthly data for all the information

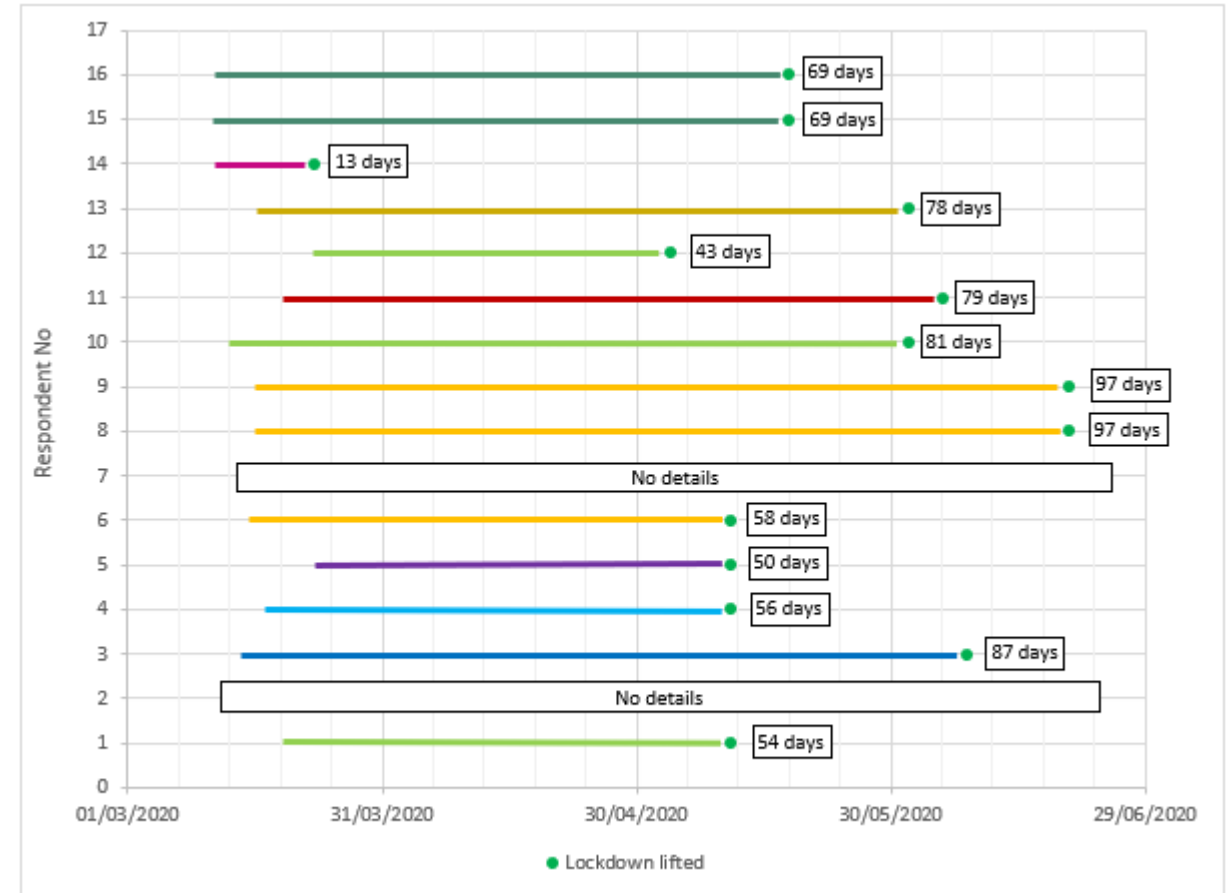


# Evolution of waste and cleaning services

# Different lockdown period and measures

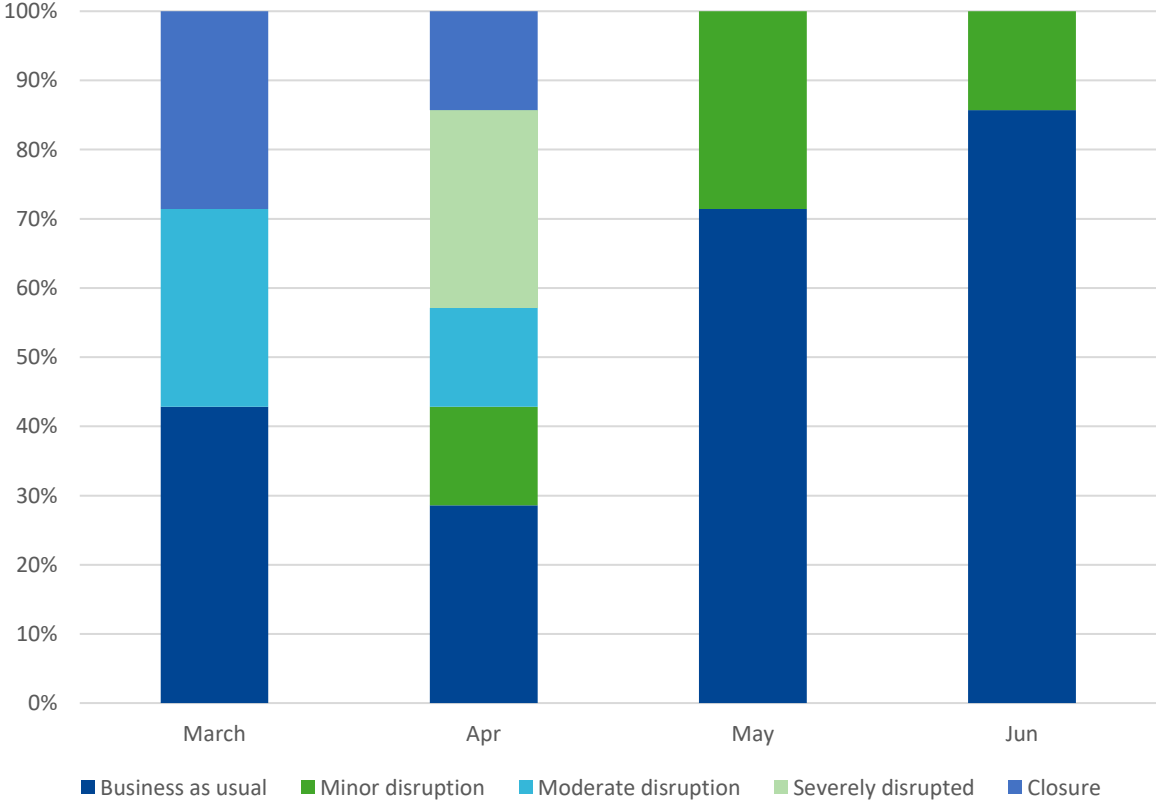
Different responses:

- Few decreases of collection frequencies for sorted fractions
- Few increases of collection frequencies for residual waste
- Different impacts: decreases or increase of population (secondary homes, tourism, etc.)
- Main impact: interruption of businesses (HORECA)

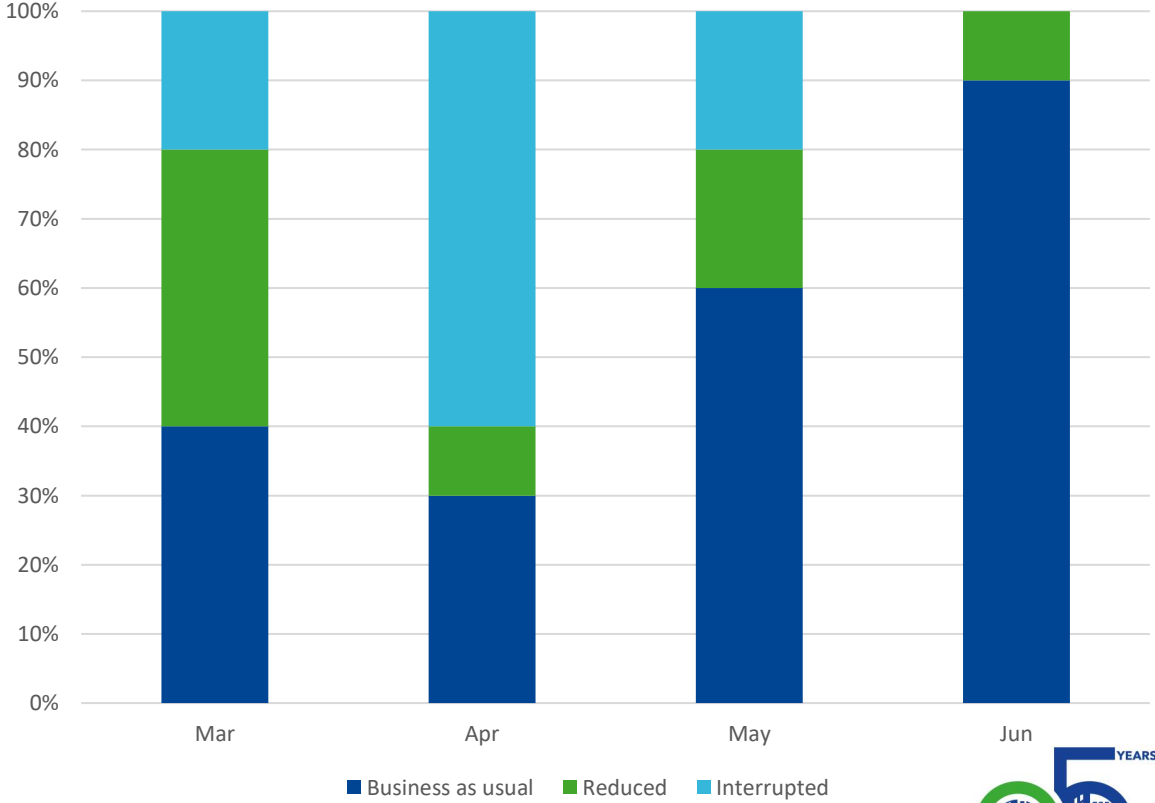


# Disruption of services

Civic Amenity Sites

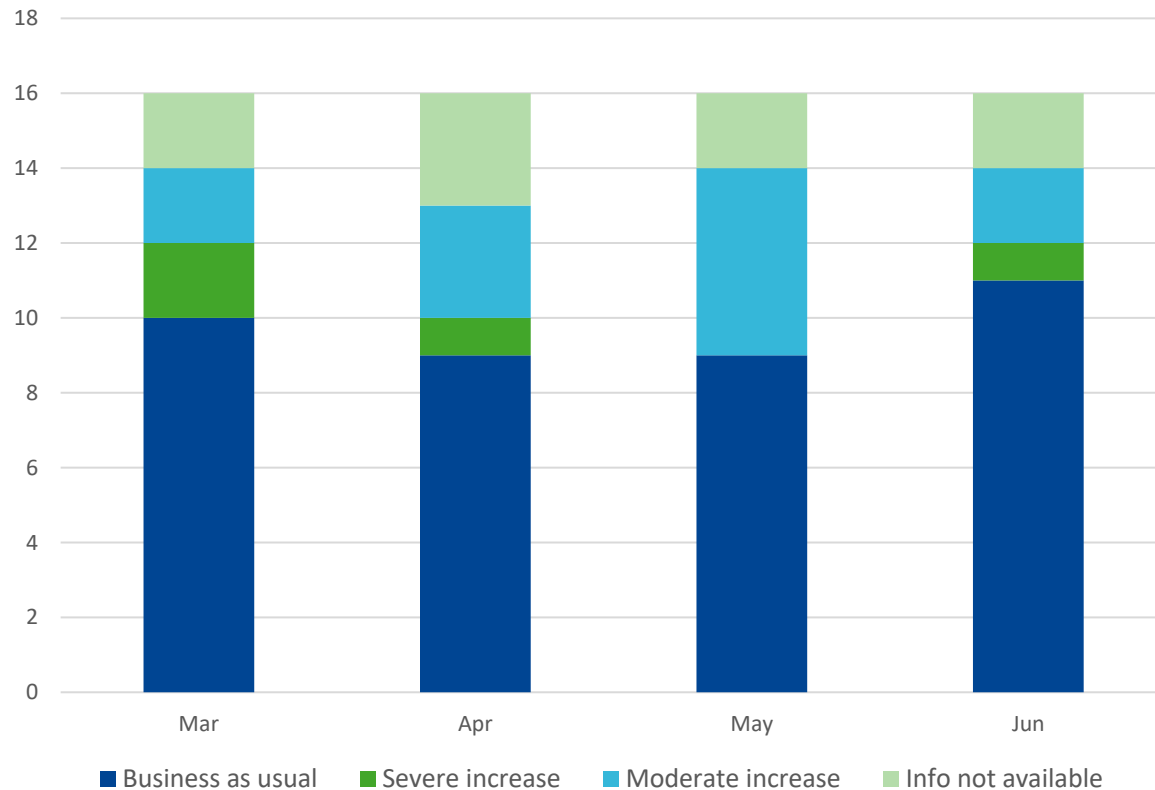


On-demand services



# Fly-tipping

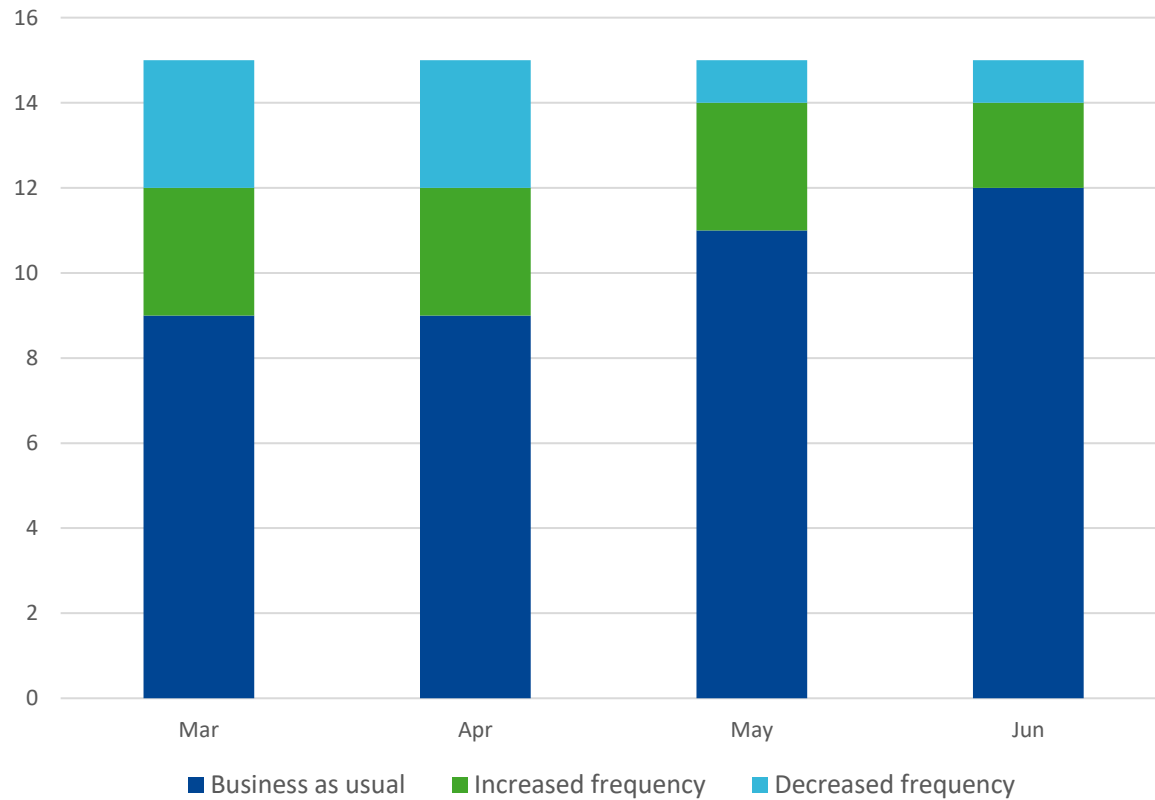
Fly tipping (2020)



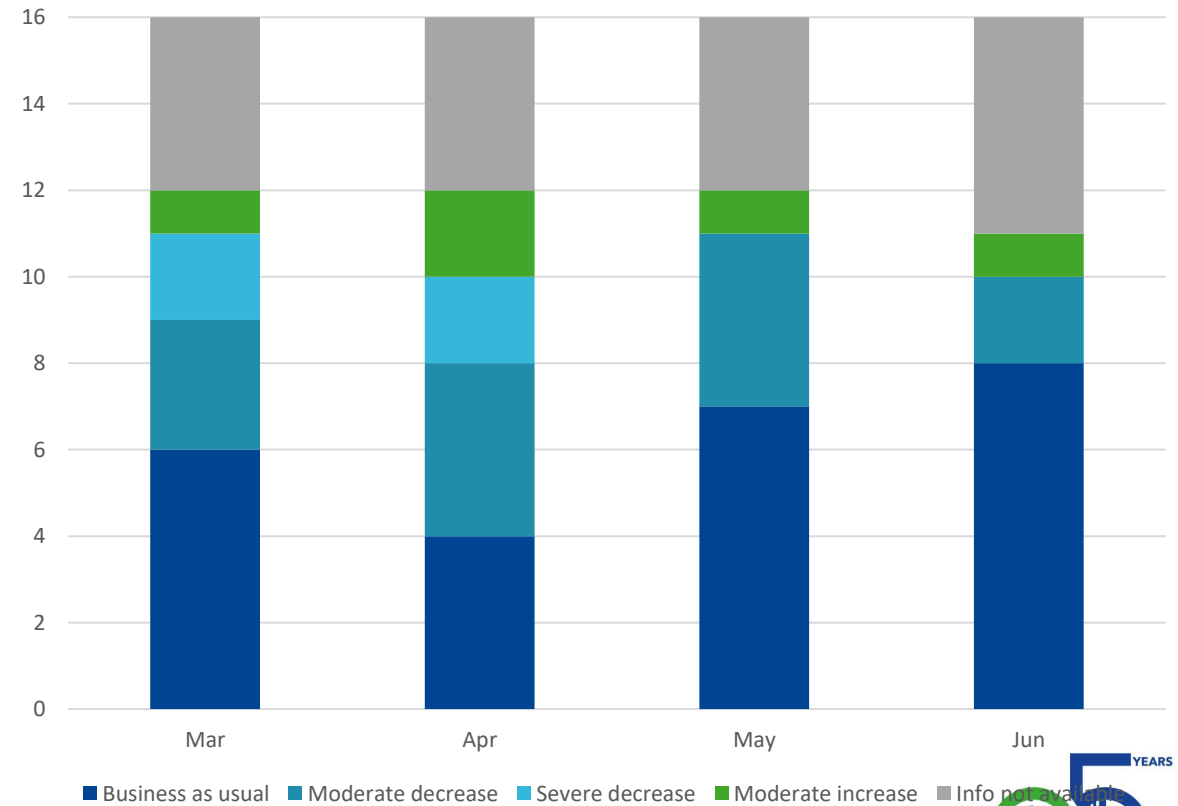
- No clear correlation between the disruptions and fly-tipping
- In some territories, a clear correlation is visible, but not in others
- Use of drones and satellite camera to identify illegal tipping

# Street cleaning

## Street cleaning operations



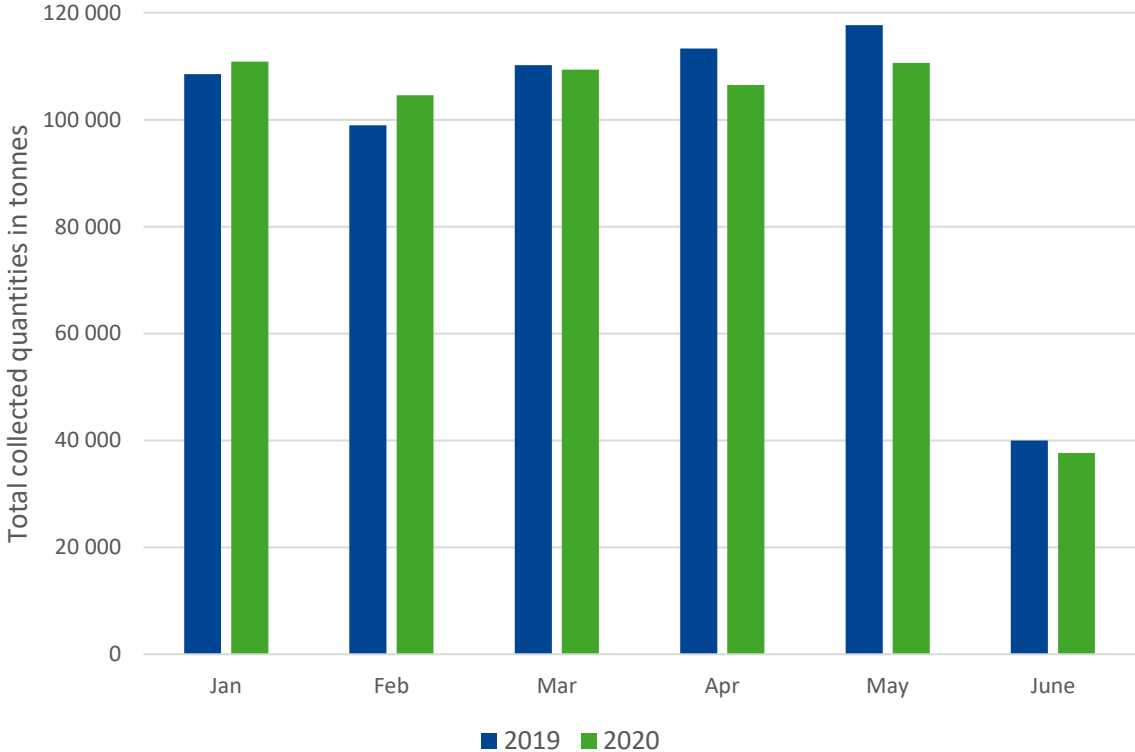
## Street cleaning and public bins waste arisings



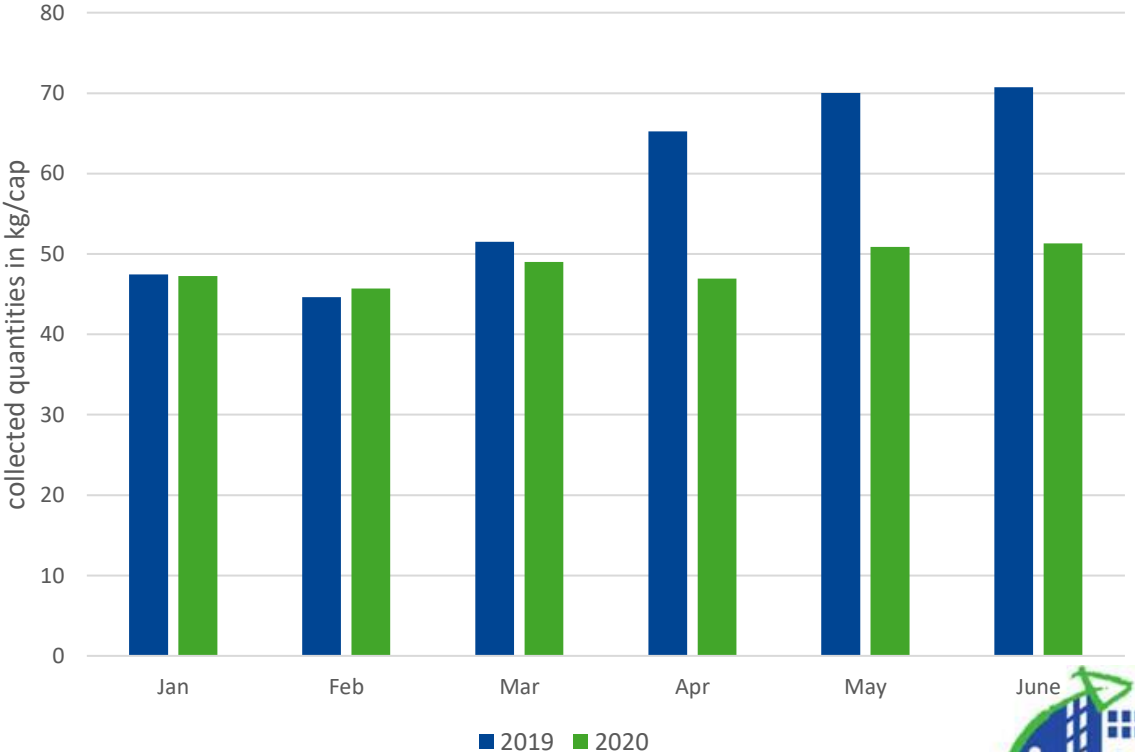
# Impact on waste generation and performances

# Evolution of the collected quantities

Total collected quantities by the respondents in 2019 and 2020



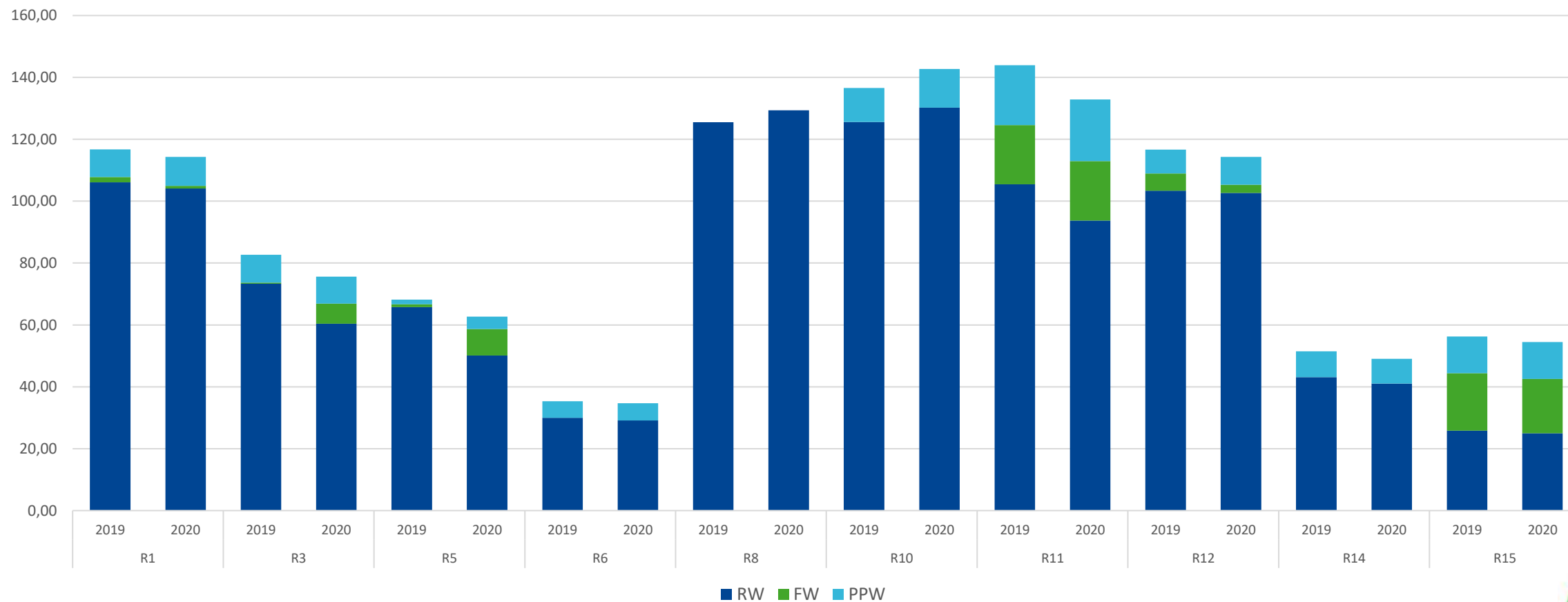
Collected quantities per inhabitant in 2019 and 2020 for a touristic area





# Collected quantities for the different respondents

Collected quantities in kg/cap in 2019 and 2020, only for months with partial or full lockdown



# Main trends on waste generation and sorting

- Waste generation:
  - Transfer of commercial waste to household waste / sometimes leading to a general decrease of collected quantities
  - Sharp decrease of touristic waste
  - Decrease of construction and demolition waste
  - Sometimes: increase of occasional waste leading to difficulties in civic amenity sites
- Waste sorting:
  - No impact of the pandemic in most territories – people kept their sorting habits
  - Increase in territories that introduced new measures previous to the pandemic
  - Decrease where collection services were disrupted/interrupted

# Recommendations

# Recommendations for local waste services

Flexibility for re-allocating resources

Keep civic amenity sites open

Define priority levels for services

Online communication with clear messages

Consistent monitoring and reporting

Tackle illegal practices

# Policy recommendations

Provide clear guidance

Promote inter-city  
cooperation

Adaptation of waste  
permits

Ensure the economic  
balance of waste  
collection


Ensure proper  
communication  
between health  
services and waste  
services

Support the  
implementation of  
online booking for civic  
amenity sites

Communicate on  
littering and fly tipping

Promote training to  
multiskill workers

# More information here!



The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on municipal waste management systems



Results and analysis of a survey carried out by ACR+ between July and October 2020



D4.5. Guidelines for successful implementation

Guidelines for improving local waste collection systems

Jean-Benoit Bel, ACR+



D4.6 – Policy recommendations & development needs related to the waste framework conditions

Policy recommendations

Jean-Benoit Bel – ACR+ & Brooke Flanagan – EUROCIETES





# Thank you !



**Jean-Benoit Bel**

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