

## EUROPEAN COMPOST NETWORK ECN e.V.

Network for Organic Resources and Biological Treatment

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Floralies 2016, Ghent, Belgium

### Closed Loop Gardening at the Ghent Floralies, with ECN-partner Viaco

**Visit a vibrant city festival in Ghent's Arts Quarter in the spring of 2016 (22th of April – 1st of May). Come and be surprised and inspired by a world full of flowers and plants, fascinating gardens, breathtaking art installations, and unexpected garden techniques.**

This year you can discover Closed Loop Gardening presented by the Flemish Compost Association (VLACO vzw). Viaco guarantees a good compost and digestate quality in Flanders, but Viaco also sensitizes people on so-called closed loop gardening techniques. These specific gardening techniques focus on processing and re-using organic garden residues as much as possible, there where they were produced. For instance by composting at home, by keeping chickens, by mulch mowing, by processing prunings in a creative or functional way, by applying perennials ... Line by line, this way of gardening gets more popular and it provides inspiration to a lot of urban garden and greening initiatives in Flanders. Viaco's inspirational garden at the Floralies will show the closed loop gardening techniques one can apply. The garden consists of a modern, a classic and a rural part. We demonstrate that every garden can be a closed loop garden. There will be workshops and demonstrations during the whole period. We show how an urban garden can be built up practically and gradually, during the flower show, by using the different techniques. In our food truck we will transform leftovers into nice snacks, in order to reduce food waste.



You can find **Viaco** on the KINA-square, on the edge of the Floralies site named Saint Peter's Square.

Prepare yourself for a dynamic and interactive city festival. Come, see, experience and participate in the various activities and enjoy the burst of colours, fragrances, techniques ... in this floral paradise!

#### Ghent Floralies uses ECN qualified compost

In addition to our inspirational garden you can also admire the superior ECN qualified compost at all locations of the Ghent Floralies. The Viaco-compost is used as a protective layer between the plants.

Previously the Floralies had been using peat between the plants, but since the edition of 2010 they choose for sustainable **Viaco-compost**. This year 140 ton compost covers the garden soils. The compost will give the final touch at the art works and protects the garden soils against the weather in April. The Floralies save 81 tons of CO2 by using Viaco-compost instead of peat. That is equivalent to 35 families who leave their car at home during a whole year!

We are proud that the Floralies choose our Viaco-compost. The Flemish compost producers do their best to bring every day a high-quality product on the market. This compost meets all the strict standards of the Viaco label and **ECN-QAS-label!**

Visit the Floralies website [here](#).

MCN at ORBIT2016

### Mediterranean Compost Network (MCN) initiative at ORBIT2016

**The MED Compost Network is an initiative launched in the framework of the SCOW project capitalisation activities. This network of entities, involved in biowaste management and treatment in the mediterranean area, is set up to promote initiatives aimed at high quality biowaste management especially in touristic areas.**

If you are interested to get actively involved, you are invited to take part in the **MCN workshop** on the afternoon of the 26 May at the **ORBIT2016** conference or visit the stand to get additional information.

Please visit the website of MCN [here](#).

More information about the SCOW project [here](#).

Supporting entities:



### ORBIT 2016, 25-28 May 2016 Crete (GR)

ECN's next ORBIT conference will be held in Heraklion, Crete on **25 to 28 May 2016**. Focussing on the 'Circular Economy and Organic Waste Management', it is the tenth biennial conference on Organic Resources and Biological Waste Treatment, signalling 20 years of excellence in scientific research and professional networking.

**ORBIT 2016** will be organised by Harokopio University of Athens (Prof. Dr. Katia Lasaridi), the Technological Educational Institute of Crete (Associate Prof. Dr. Thrassyvoulos Manios) and ECN.

Take advantage of the early bird registration benefits until **29 February 2016**.

Because there have stayed minimum rooms, please visit <http://www.maris.gr/creta.aspx> online booking page in order to proceed with the reservation. Booking Code:ORBIT2016  
Other hotels in the area may have higher availability, however, please be aware that tourist demand in the area is high at the Conference time, so it is advisable to arrange your travel and accommodation soon.

More information: [www.orbit2016.gr](http://www.orbit2016.gr)

EU Green Week, 30 May - 3 June 2016

### Investing for a greener future - Call for Partner events

**Green Week 2016 will take place from 30 May to 3 June 2016. Focusing on the theme "Investing for a greener future", it hopes to contribute to answering a broader question of how to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe. Elements such as, for example, innovation for greener cities, sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems or the role of innovative instruments in mobilising adequate financing and 'blue growth' would naturally fit into the programme. The EU Commission started a call for partner events.**

Green Week 2016 partner events would be all kinds of events taking place at local, national or European level which are relevant to the themes of each day such as seminars and conferences, exhibition and art initiatives, awareness raising events for children and adults, open doors days and guided tours, training and networking events and so on.



Events that are organised during the week of 30 May-3 June 2016 (i.e. at the same time that Green Week takes place) are particularly welcome and could be further promoted, especially if they fit within the themes of the day:

**Monday 30 May:** Investing for greener cities (official opening event in Ljubljana)

**Tuesday 31 May:** Investing in our countryside

**Wednesday 1 June:** Investments that make it happen (high level conference in Brussels)

**Thursday 2 June:** Investing in our oceans

**Friday 3 June:** Investing for future generations

Please find more information [here](#) or contact the Green Week Team at [partners@greenweek2016.eu](mailto:partners@greenweek2016.eu) Tel. +32 (0)2 340.30.65

Press Release

### Renewable Matter - First Edition 2016

**The first release 2016 of the bimonthly magazine has been published recently. This issue includes two especially interesting articles: one on compost use in agriculture and the second dealing with Bio-based Economy.**

**'Compost Makes it entrance'** by Roberto Rizzo:

This article stresses the relevance of compost not just as a replacement for mineral fertilizer but also as a source of organic matter. Soil organic matter decreases in many countries caused by climate change and intensive farming. Separate collection of organic waste and a certified compost supply chain is considered as key element to provide a compost product which can be used in the agriculture to raise the level of organic matter (carbon) in soils.

**'How to shape - The next level of the European bio-based economy'** by Michael Carus et.al.:

The bio-based economy is a promising field for the material sector. It is supposed to help mitigate climate change through substitution of petrochemicals. It could bring new business opportunities, jobs etc. This article reflects the problems and chances of this sector with regard to Circular Economy and EU policy.

Please follow the link [here](#) to visit the magazines website.

ECN Announcement - Save the date

### Annual Meeting 2016, 2 May in Dublin (IE)

This year ECN's Annual Meeting will take place on the 2 May from 15:00 h to 18:00 h in advance of the **GORC Conference** in Dublin, Ireland.

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ECN-QAS Trade Mark No 011007168  
Trade mark for certified quality assurance organisations, compost and digestate products according to ECN-QAS  
Website: [www.ecn-qas.eu](http://www.ecn-qas.eu)



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