

Transition to PAYT tariffs in Southern European Countries

The contribute of project LIFE PAYT

C. Dias-Ferreira*, **K. Moustakas****, **D. Malamis****, **M. Kasidoni**** and **A. Neves***

*Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, Portugal

** National Technical University of Athens, Greece



Abstract

Municipal waste management practices in Southern European countries have so far failed to achieve high recycling rates and EU waste environmental targets.

Even though the use of **PAYT** (Pay-as-you-Throw) tariffs is known to reduce waste generation and to increases source segregation, the introduction of PAYT tariffs is not seen as viable by elected officials due to perceived technical complexity, higher costs and low citizens' acceptance.

Project LIFE PAYT paves the way for the introduction of PAYT tariffs in three Southern European countries, demonstrating to the local authorities that such tariffs are technically feasible, well accepted by the populations and environmentally and economically sustainable.

Introduction

LIFE PAYT – Tool to reduce Waste in South Europe is a LIFE Environment Project, co-funded by the European Commission, which aims to foster the adoption of PAYT ("Pay-as-you-throw") waste tariffs and increase separate collection of valuable materials.

Methodology

- Transition to PAYT tariffs at 5 demonstration sites in the South of Europe: Lisbon, Aveiro, Condeixa, Vrilissia and Larnaka
- Development of a software tool to be used by municipalities
- Development of a web-based portal to engage citizens
- Tailor-made training courses for elected officials, technical staff and citizens, to foster acceptance and involvement and increase know-how
- Establishment of a network on PAYT, to encourage replication

Results so far

- Technological solutions for the transition to PAYT have been selected and are being tested at different demonstrations sites (figure 1 and 2)
- The integrated PAYT operation management platform for municipality is a tool under development, with the collaboration of the municipalities (figure 3)
- Waste characterization campaigns were carried out in target areas to calculate environmental and socio-economical indicators at the beginning of the project (before transition to PAYT).

Discussion and Conclusion

Implementation of PAYT waste tariffs requires profound changes in waste collection services. So far, existing commercial solutions for access-controlled waste containers adequate to PAYT are quite expensive, making difficult the wide-spread of such solutions. New low-cost market solutions need to be put forward, and two different container prototypes are being developed in project LIFE PAYT and will be field-tested in the near future.

Changing the disposal behaviors of both householders and non-domestic waste producers constitutes the upcoming tasks in the transition to PAYT tariffs at the demonstration areas.

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Figure 1: Kerbside collective waste bins equipped with closed access systems for installation in Aveiro (Portugal), Vrilissia (Greece) and Larnaka (Cyprus)



Figure 2: Road testing of an RFID reader installed at a collection vehicle at Condeixa (Portugal)

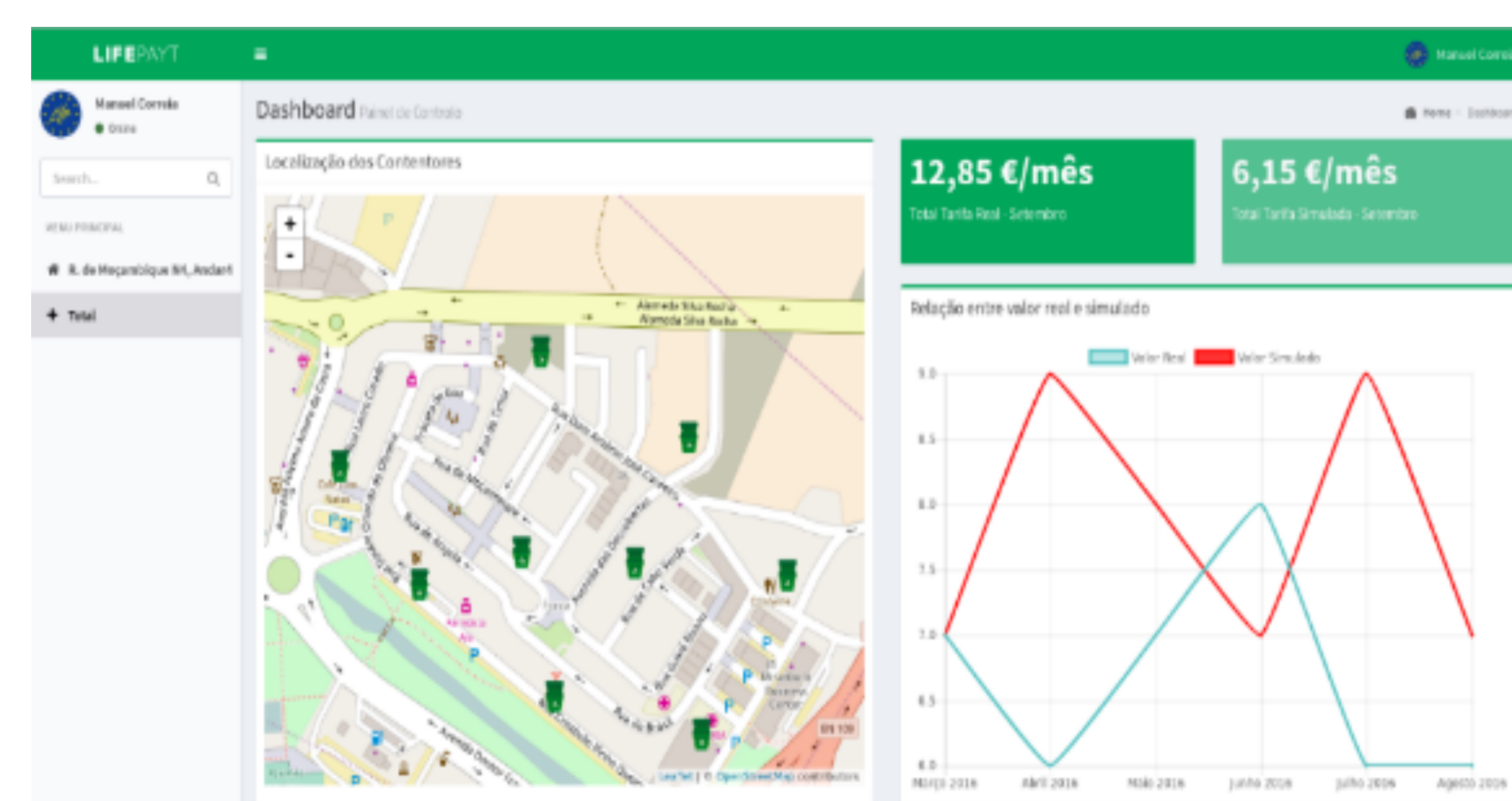


Figure 3: Software tool for municipalities (under development)

