

Overview of AVAs 2LIFES surveys and activities

After analyzing the proposal for 2LIFES surveys & mapping in January 2020, it was clear to AVA's project team that the surveys were not immediately suitable in a Danish context. Therefore, AVA received permission from the Lead Partner to prepare its own surveys and studies defined by AVA's project colleagues, based on current needs in a Danish reality.

This has initially led to two studies regarding recycling of construction materials and the establishment of a Mobile Repair Workshop.

Recycling of construction materials

The activities focus on recycling (construction) materials from the six recycling stations in Aarhus Municipality. The purpose is to uncover the barriers and opportunities that exist for direct recycling of construction materials from the recycling stations.

In order to uncover barriers, there will be conducted interviews with a number of craftsmen / companies in Aarhus Municipality. Furthermore, a focus group of employees from the Recycling Stations is established.

It is proposed that between 10-20 interviews will be conducted with craftsmen in Aarhus Municipality about their perspective on direct recycling of construction materials at the recycling stations. Are there other types of materials that will be interesting to collect?

The focus group, consisting of employees from recycling stations, will help identify practical barriers that could be associated with the project.

After an analysis of the various barriers about interest and practice, the study will result in a test / campaign for the collection of construction material at one or more of the municipality's recycling stations.

Experiences and results from the test / campaign will form the basis for the project's second phase, where specially designed containers for recyclable materials will be set up at selected construction sites in Aarhus.

At the same time, the knowledge from the test sites will be used for the design of the municipality's new modern recycling station in Lisbjerg, which is expected to open in the spring of 2022.

The timeline for the project looks the following:

- September-October 2020:
Preparation of questionnaires, list of companies & contact addresses
- October-December 2020:
Questionnaire survey based on direct contact with resource persons

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- January- March 2021:
Processing of results. Contact for recycling stations. Selection of materials.
- April - June 2021:
Campaign at selected recycling stations (e)
- July 2021:
Evaluation

Establishment of a Rolling Repair Workshop

The purpose of the project is to focus on the possibilities for citizens to repair used effects themselves as well as to uncover barriers and potentials for the spread of Repair Cafes.

The Repair Café is a concept, where citizens can come and get help to repair their used items, originated in the Netherlands about 10 years ago. The concept is based on the desire to create communities and get away from the throw-out-and-buy-new culture. At the same time, the amount of waste is reduced, and consumption patterns change.

Repair cafes are in rapid development and every month new places are opened around Denmark where citizens can come and get help to repair their used items. From a faulty piece of furniture or kitchen machine to modern electronics.

REUSE wants to develop a mobile repair shop to give attention on the potentials for learning and participating in the repair of used effects.

At the same time, the converted van will be a rolling landmark and advertising pillar for REUSE. The 2LIFES activities are intended to be included in the development of the first phase of the project (mapping) as well as in the planning and execution of specific activities; called campaigns.

Purchasing, rebuilding and operating of the vehicle is financed by AffaldVarme Aarhus.

The development of a Rolling Repair Workshop has i.e. the following main activities:

- Mapping of potentials and barriers for the concept / project idea (2 LIFES)
- Mapping of possible partners
- Preparation of budget, financing plan
- Preparation of schedule
- Choice of van
- Design and interior design of vehicle
- Rebuilding and preparation of vehicle
- Planning and coordinating test visits to recycling stations
- PR material (2LIFES)
- Test visits to recycling stations + possibly for selected events (2LIFES).

The project is expected to run over the next 2 years, with the first test events in the winter 20-21.

The mapping should uncover the potentials of a rolling Repair unit.

Later in the process, the visits to e.g. the recycling stations provide valuable experience in relation to the establishment of a permanent Repair service unit.

Status of AVA's 2LIFES surveys & activities, December 2020**Status of: Recycling of construction materials**

A questionnaire with 17 questions, regarding the choice of construction materials, treatment of materials and the incentive to sort and recycle has been prepared (Appendix 1). 7 of the largest customers in the construction industry in Aarhus have been interviewed.

A number of experts with insight into the material issue have been identified and invited to participate in our stakeholder group.

Even though this is a very small study so far, we could still deduct some trends:

In general:

- Great interest in the theme and participation in the study.
- There are a lot of good construction materials that are already being delivered to the recycling stations today - which can be recycled. The challenge is how to best recycle these materials.
- Praise for the design of the recycling stations. Most people think that a recycling for material collection will fit in nicely.

Which materials:

- Insulation seems to be an option; most people throw out opened bags
- Drywall – even though they compete with very low-price points.
- Building elements which must be stored / collected to avoid damage
- Tiles, stones etc.

Barriers:

- Quality (materials must be in good condition, uniform and without being too damaged)
- Logistics and time - it is easier to get new goods delivered directly to the construction site
- Developers wishes

Comments:

- Time is a key factor; costs a minute - so it would not take much time before it doesn't make economic sense to use recycled materials
- A fundraising campaign will not work for the bigger companies, but could suit private and smaller companies better
- The developers have a vital role to secure the success of recycling building materials

Next step: In order for the study to gain more weight and nuances, interviews with smaller companies and builders will be included.

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Status of: Establishment of a Rolling Repair Workshop

AVA's project team have been in contact with Repair Cafe Denmark, which is the national umbrella organization for repair activities. Repair Cafe Denmark have been helpful in providing insight into the development of Repair Cafes in Denmark. The organization have provided their instructions and good advice in connection with the establishment of a new Repair Cafe.

These guidelines have been further developed by the AVA project team for a variety of universal advice which could be relevant for all 2Lifes partners and others with an interest in the field (Appendix 2).

A list of which materials and tools are needed in connection with the establishment of a new Repair Cafe has been developed in collaboration with the local voluntary organization Reparations.Konsortiet. (Appendix 3)

An Iveco van has been purchased and rebuilt with new a door, service table and drawers while the exterior has been decorated with REUSE logos built from recycled wood.

The design of the vehicle and the purchase of tools / materials takes place in collaboration with the Reparations.Konsortiet.

According to the new plan (taken COVID-19 into account) is that the van will be ready for use by the spring of 2021.