

DOSSIER

3rd WEEEWaste MEETING

Interreg Europe

Leipzig, Germany

24 – 25 April 2024





Index

Introduction	3
3 st Interregional Event Summary	4
Policy Discovery Journey (150w – 250w)	5
Best Practice Exchange Session	8
Study Visit 3 (SV3)	9

Introduction

WEEEWaste aims to implement better national, regional and local policies for management of WEEE, covering the main recommendations of the “Circular Electronics Initiative” from the EU Circular Economy AP.

The final objective of WEEEWaste is to promote reuse, collection, recycling and other forms of recovery of waste electrical and electronic equipment, supporting thus the achievement of the WEEE Directive 2012/19/EU.

Partners from 8 regions (Czechia, Italy, Germany, Spain, Romania, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia) will exchange practices in a discovery journey to modify their policies, focusing on:

- To improve the interregional coordination of municipalities and regions in order to fight more effectively against illegal shipment between areas and WEEE dumping.
- To introduce a holistic approach to the WEEE management, designing and testing practices which introduce the full sustainable consumption approach defined by the EU Circular Economy Action Plan (refuse; rethink; reduce; reuse; repair; refurbish; remanufacture; repurpose; recycle; recover).

MAIN OUTPUTS

- 8 Policy Instrument Addressed
- 66 organisations cooperating across borders
- 20 policy learning events
- 16 Best Practices for Policy Learning Platform
- 45 organisations with increased capacity due to their participation in project activities

PROJECT PARTNERS

- **Czech Technical University in Prague, University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings (CZ)**
- Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency (RO)
- Regional Government of Navarre (ES)
- Municipality of Campobasso (IT)
- Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH (DE)
- Hajdú-Bihar County Government (HU)
- Gdansk Municipality (PL)
- Environmental Research Institute (SI)
- Hanze University of Applied Sciences (NL)

3st Interregional Event Summary

The Interregional Event in Leipzig, held from April 23-25, 2024, brought together project partners to discuss WEEE management and the circular economy. Participants arrived on April 23rd, setting the stage for a productive series of sessions over the next two days.

The first day began with registration and a warm welcome from Aufbauwerk. Key presentations included Leipzig's Zero Waste Strategy and policy instruments from Romania and Spain. These presentations set the stage for the panel discussions, which facilitated a deep exchange of ideas and practices among the participants.

Hanze UAS presented the 'WCPET' tool for market analysis and evaluating circular economy best practices, providing valuable insights into market dynamics and practical approaches to waste management. The day concluded with a social dinner at Auerbachs Keller, fostering camaraderie among the attendees.

The second day started with the Steering Committee meeting to discuss project progress and strategy. The Best Practice Exchange Session focused on successful initiatives from Slovenia, offering practical insights that participants could implement in their regions.

The afternoon's interregional study visit included stops at the Concept Store "Wiederschön", Inab – Solidarity Recycling Station, and Hardware for Future. These visits showcased successful circular economy practices, emphasizing reuse, resource conservation, and providing access to technology for low-income families.

The event was highly successful, with participants praising the organization and the depth of the discussions. The interactive sessions and study visits provided valuable insights and inspired attendees to implement the lessons learned in their regions. The positive feedback highlighted the event's role in fostering collaboration and innovation in sustainable WEEE management.



Policy Discovery Journey (150w – 250w)

Policy Discovery Journey for the WEEEWaste Project

The day began with registration. Following this, there was a welcome address by Aufbauwerk and the Lead Partner from Czechia. This was followed by a series of presentations. Marc Schoppe from the Office for Economic Development, City of Leipzig, introduced various policy instruments. Lisa Quiring from City Cleaning Leipzig presented the Zero Waste Strategy Leipzig. Additionally, there were presentations on policy instruments from Romania and Spain.

The first session started with a warm-up activity where participants discussed the question, "What is the biggest obstacle to the circular economy of waste electrical and electronic equipment?" in pairs. This was followed by a panel discussion featuring representatives from Germany (Leipzig), Spain, Czechia, and Romania. They shared their experiences, discussing what had been implemented, what went well, and the obstacles they faced.

In the second session, partners from Spain, Germany (Leipzig), and Romania shared their expertise in group discussions. Participants then wrote down their wishes for the project and the questions they wanted to address in the panel discussion.

The final panel discussion involved participants from Spain, Czechia, and Romania, who addressed the questions raised and exchanged ideas. The event concluded with a closing session where the discussed ideas and thoughts were summarized, and feedback was gathered from all participants.

Recommendations for action for the WEEEWaste Project

1. Involvement of stakeholders who implement the policy

The participating partners had invited a variety of stakeholders who could share their perspectives. However, the discussions were at times very theoretical. To discuss the impact of policies more effectively in the future, it would be helpful to involve stakeholders who are directly engaged in practical implementation. For example, including organizations visited on 25 April 2023, such as INAB or the Repair Cafe, could reveal potential weaknesses in the feasibility of the policies. This involvement would enable project partners to develop policies that are practical and sustainable beyond the project's end.

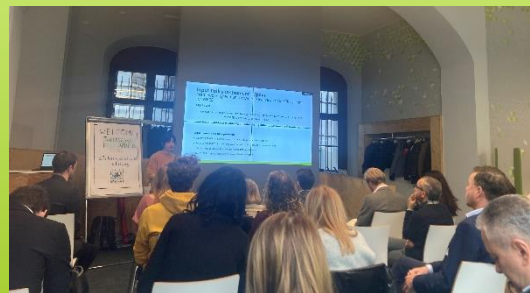
2. Enhancing future exchange formats: A focus on specific projects and problems

The original goal of the event was to facilitate an exchange of experiences among project partners regarding the current status and practical implementation of policies. Following consultations with the project coordinator and feedback from participating partners and stakeholders, it was determined that this goal was achieved. Participants found the panel discussion to be stimulating and meaningful.

However, it became evident that future exchange formats would be more effective if they were centered around a specific project or problem of the partners, using this as the starting point for discussions. The discussions during the event were sometimes perceived as too vague. By focusing on concrete issues, participants can engage in more targeted and practical exchanges. The already mentioned inclusion of stakeholders who implement the policies will further support this approach.

This method would not only ground the conversations in practical, actionable issues but also simplify documentation. The focus would be on specific topics, and the resulting "to-dos" could be clearly identified. Emphasizing concrete projects or problems as the basis for future events will ensure that the exchange formats are more focused and productive.

Policy
Discovery
Journey



Agenda

DAY 1: 24 APRIL 2024

POLICY DISCOVERY JOURNEY & MARKET ANALYSIS

Venue: **Stadtbüro** Burgplatz 1, 04109 Leipzig

Time: 09:00 – 14:30

Agenda:

09:00 – 09:15 Registration

09:15 – 09:25 Welcome

09:25 – 10:00 Aufbauwerk
Lead Partner

Presentation Policy Instruments

Introduction by Marc Schoppe, Office for Economic Development City of Leipzig

Presentation Zero Waste Strategy Leipzig, City Cleaning Leipzig

Presentation Policy Instrument Romania

Presentation Policy Instrument Spain

10:00 – 12:00 **Panel discussion part I**

Warm-up

Introduction panellists

Exchange

12:00 – 12:30 **Break with Catering**

12:30 – 14:00 **Panel discussion part II**

Panel

Q&A

14:00 – 14:15 **Break**

14:15 – 14:30 **Closing Session**

14:30 – 14:45 **Break**

14:45 – 16:15 **Market analysis alignment and WEEEWaste circular best practices evaluation tool - 'WCPET', Hanze UAS**

Social Dinner: 19:00 – Open End at **Barfusz**

Best Practice Exchange Session

During the Best Practice Exchange Session on April 25, 2024, Marin Zver and Marinka Vovk from EKO LLC presented their innovative approach to waste management and upcycling. EKO LLC focuses on restoring, dismantling, and processing various products to reduce waste and promote circular economy principles. They are dedicated to employing people with disabilities, providing them with protected workplaces and opportunities to participate in meaningful work.

EKO LLC actively participates in projects aimed at reducing waste and enhancing resource efficiency. Their approach includes repairing and transforming discarded items, such as furniture, clothing, textiles, and household items, into new, functional products. This not only minimizes waste but also adds value to the recycled materials through upcycling, thereby reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainability.

The company also emphasizes social responsibility and inclusion by operating as an Employment Center for people with disabilities, allowing these individuals to engage in the workforce and contribute to society. This inclusive model benefits both the employees and the broader community by creating green jobs and raising public awareness about the importance of recycling and upcycling.

EKO LLC's local impact is significant, as it creates jobs in rural areas and promotes circularity within the community. The company's efforts in waste management align with various environmental regulations and directives, including the Environmental Protection Act and the WEEE Directive. By collecting, sorting, dismantling, and recycling e-waste, EKO LLC ensures that materials are efficiently reused and recycled, reducing the e-waste gap and supporting a sustainable environment.

Overall, the presentation by EKO LLC highlighted the importance of innovative waste management practices, social inclusion, and the positive impact of upcycling on both the environment and the community. Their model serves as a valuable example for other regions aiming to implement circular economy principles and enhance sustainability efforts.

Study Visit 3 (SV3)

During the interregional study visit on April 25, 2024, participants visited the Concept Store “Wiederschön”, a pioneering project for sustainable trade and consumption in Leipzig. Developed in collaboration with Aufbauwerk and other partners, the City Cleaning Leipzig aims to create a central hub where the circular economy can be experienced firsthand. The concept store's vision is to give used items a new lease of life, with reuse as the top priority. The store, located in the Höfe am Brühl, will officially open in May 2024, offering 550 square meters of space dedicated to sustainable products, services, and advice. Visitors will be able to engage in various events, workshops, and educational programs designed to inspire and inform about waste avoidance and resource conservation. This visit allowed participants to see the practical implementation of circular economy principles and provided them with new ideas and impulses to take back to their regions. The emphasis on reuse and sustainable consumption resonated strongly with all attendees, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in promoting environmental sustainability.

Study Visits at
„Wiederschön“, „inab“
and „Hardware for
Future“



Additionally, participants visited Inab – Solidarity Recycling Station, a prime example of a functioning circular economy. Inab is dedicated to avoiding waste and creating new value from discarded materials. The facility collects a wide range of recyclables, including wood, metal, electronics, plastics, and small furniture items. At Inab, these materials are meticulously sorted, stored, and processed. Unlike conventional recycling centers in Leipzig, Inab returns these materials to the community, ensuring they remain in the utilization cycle and can be reused or recycled. This visit showcased Inab's contribution to resource conservation and provided a practical

model of how circular economy principles can be effectively implemented, greatly impressing the event participants with its sustainable practices.

As part of the interregional study visit, participants also visited Hardware for Future, an inspiring initiative dedicated to refurbishing and recycling unused electronic devices. The visit highlighted that, according to a study, every third household in Germany has discarded, unused PCs or notebooks. Additionally, many companies discard functional computers. The initiative aims to address this waste by refurbishing these devices. Members of Hardware for Future volunteer their time to repair and refurbish donated hardware, ensuring all data is securely erased. These refurbished devices are then distributed to people in need, particularly benefiting low-income families, children, and young people by providing them access to IT and education. This visit underscored the importance of resource conservation and the impactful role of reusing valuable materials, leaving participants inspired by the practical application of circular economy principles. Hardware for Future is furthermore financed through the policy instrument that will be improved through the Interreg Europe Project WEEEWaste.

Agenda

DAY 2: 25 APRIL 2024

STEERING COMMITTEE & BEST PRACTICE EXCHANGE SESSION

Venue: **Stadtbüro** Burgplatz 1, 04109 Leipzig

Time: 08:45 – 11:00

08:45 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 10:00 **Steering Committee**

10:00 – 11:00 **Exchange Session: Best Practice Slovenia**

INTERREGIONAL STUDY VISIT

Time: 11:15 – 16:00

Agenda:

11:15 – 12:00 1. Stop: Concept Store “Wiederschön”

Individual Lunch Break & Journey

13:30 – 14:45 2. Stop: Inab – Solidarity Recycling Station

Journey

15:15 – 16:00 3. Stop: Hardware for Future