

How can local authorities create a reuse and repair economy?

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RREUSE is an international network representing social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling.



Picture credit: De Kringwinkel (1, 2,4) AERESS (3) Humana Nova (5)

33 members
29 countries

Austria

[RepaNet](#)

Belgium

[HERWIN](#)

[RESSOURCES](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Association Citizens "Hands"](#)

Croatia

[Humana Nova](#)

Finland

[Tramel Oy](#)

[Kierrätyskeskus Oy](#)

Estonia

[Uuskasutuskeskus](#)

France

[Emmaüs France](#)

[Envie](#)

Germany

[Dachverband FairWertung e.V.](#)

[WIRD](#)

Greece

[Ecological Recycling Society](#)

[Klimax Plus](#)

Hungary

[Humusz Szövetség](#)

Ireland

[Community Reuse Network](#)

[Ireland](#)

[Rediscovery Centre](#)

[RECOSI](#)

[RehabRecycle](#)

Italy

[Rete 14 luglio](#)

[Cooperativa Sociale Insieme](#)

Lithuania

[Žiedinė ekonomika](#)

Netherlands

[Branchevereniging](#)

[Kringloopbedrijven Nederland](#)

Poland

[EKON](#)

Romania

[Ateliere Fără Frontiere](#)

Serbia

[Ecologists without Borders](#)

Slovenia

[Dobrote z.b.o](#)

Spain

[AERESS](#)

United Kingdom

[Circular Communities](#)

[Scotland](#)

[Now! Charity](#)

United States of America

[donateNYC](#)

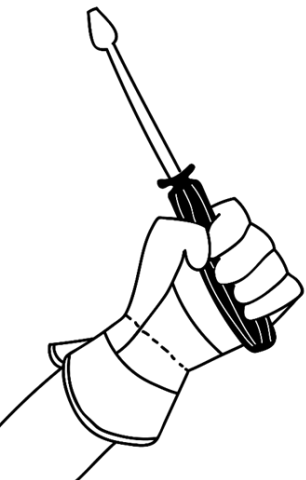
pan-European networks

[Emmaüs Europe](#)

[TESS GEIE](#)

+ Supporting members

[ethikis](#) (France)



RREUSE MEMBER IMPACT 2021

Environmental

Social

Economic

1,200,000
tonnes of waste
collected

1,000
social enterprises
within the wider
network

1,100,000,000
EUR turnover
of all activities

230,000
tonnes of goods
re-used locally

105,000
employees,
volunteers and
trainees

32,500,000
customers in
2,300
second-hand shops

100,000
EU citizens' CO2 emissions
avoided through re-use

70
jobs created per 1,000 tonnes
of waste collected with
a view of being re-used



Benefits of reuse and repair

Waste prevention

- Products stay in the economy and out of the waste stream

Environmental protection

- More efficient use of inputs (resources and energy)
- Avoiding environmental impact of production (resource use, water use, pollution...)

Recycling is not enough!

Job creation

- 70 to 140 green and local jobs per 1000 tonnes collected, according to data from the RREUSE network
- Integration of people distanced from the labour market

Social benefits

- More affordable items for lower-income people
- Funding for local initiatives
- Training in green and digital skills



picture credit: Cooperativa Sociale Insieme

High cost of reuse and repair

Repair and reuse are still expensive because of:

- technological barriers
- repair monopolies by manufacturers
- residual waste
- re-employment (for social enterprises)

Many relevant EU initiatives...

- Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation
- Right to Repair
- Empowering Consumers in the Green Transition
- Waste Framework Directive

...but it will take time and proper implementation before they can produce concrete changes at local level...



Repair Vouchers

The repair voucher incentivises repair by directly lowering the cost of repair for consumers

Started in Graz in 2017, replicated in:

- National level *Austria, France*
- Regional level *Bavaria, Thuringia – Germany*
- City level *Portland – USA*

Austrian “Reparaturbonus”

- **50 %** of repair cost, up to **200 €** per repair
- financed by **€130** million from recovery fund
- expected to subsidise **400.000** repairs until **2026**
- redeemable at **12.000** repair shops all over Austria

In Vienna, since 2020:

- 22.000 items repaired
- 90 % of repairs successful
- 540 tons of CO2 saved
- 83 local businesses supported



Sustainable Public Procurement

Favouring repair and reuse in public procurement strategies helps stimulating demand for more circular products and solution.

- Social clauses can also help with labour market re-integration and poverty alleviation

E.g: NWCPO & CRNI (2019): Ireland's National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) sought to **promote circular procurement by specifying in the tender that all furniture for the new office space must be upcycled.** The project was finally awarded to a consortium of social enterprises belonging to the Rediscovery Centre Ireland network (CRNI)

E.g: Textiles collection in Antwerp, Belgium (2016): The “De Collectie” consortium, included social enterprises such as De Kringwinkel Antwerpen and Oxfam has been active in textile collection since having been awarded a tender by the City of Antwerp for textiles collection, **promoting social employment and local re-use of collected textiles.**

A flexible and more inclusive approach, going beyond lowest price criterion can unlock important synergies in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

Extended Producer Responsibility

Extended producer responsibility schemes can be improved by:

- aligning incentives with the waste hierarchy (reduce > reuse > recycle)
 - finance reuse activities with the EPR fee
 - incentivise more circular products through eco-modulation
- particularly important for separate collection of textiles in 2025

E.g: Repair Trucks (Solidança Treball, province of Barcelona)

Mobile self-repair service teaching citizens how to fix and maintain their products



- involving all relevant actors (reuse operators, social enterprises, public authorities)
 - high-level (development and governance)
 - day-to-day level (access to waste stream, training and sensibilisation)

E.g: Ecocentri (Cooperativa Insieme, Vicenza)

Cooperation with municipal authorities to increase reuse in municipal waste collection facilities

Summary

Challenges	Solutions	Opportunities	Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High cost of repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair vouchers• Sustainable Public Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate uptake of repair and reuse, with environmental, economic and social benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reparaturbonus (<i>Austria</i>)• Procurement (<i>NWCPO, Antwerp</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ineffective EPR schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alignment with waste hierarchy• More stakeholder inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide the necessary incentives for reuse and repair activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair trucks (<i>Solidança, Barcelona</i>)• Insieme ecocentri (<i>Coop Insieme, Vicenza</i>)

**Thank you for your
attention.**

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