



Central Europe Repair- & ReUse Centers and Networks

Background

„Reuse“ is a newly introduced objective of the revised European Waste Framework Directive (WFD; Directive 2008/98/EC on waste, Nov. 2008). A new form of waste treatment was introduced within the waste hierarchy: „preparation for reuse“, with the aim to produce second hand products out of waste. The WFD clearly defines the tools: accredited repair and reuse-centres and networks. In CE regions there are only few punctual reuse initiatives, some have potential relevance for the implementation of the WFD. Relevant good practices exist in Western Europe, but all of them are within social enterprises where the economic aspects of reuse are usually outweighed by the social aspects for which reason these organisations get funded.

Challenges

The WFD must be implemented into national law until Dec. 12th , 2010. After this, practical implementation within local waste management structures has to be accomplished, which means that repair and reuse-centres and networks have to be established on a nationwide scale. Economic and market aspects will gain much more importance in order to make reuse an economically independent significant strategy of waste reduction. CERREC will meet these challenges by gathering best practice examples and expertise on reuse centers and repair networks and adapt them to the WFD requirements and to specific needs of structurally different CE regions.

General objectives:

- Contribution to the environmental goals of minimisation of emissions, waste and exploitation of natural resources.
- Fostering of EU sustainability and waste prevention objectives by promoting longer use of products
- Strengthening of CE by creating employment in the new field of reuse
- Closing of social gaps by providing affordable second hand goods to people with low income
- Creation of more added value in regional economies through qualified repair and refurbishment instead of destroying reusable products as waste and importing new low-quality products from low-wage countries

Specific objectives:

CERREC will create the basis for accredited repair and reuse centers and networks by

- transferring and adapting best practice from Belgium, France, Germany and others to CE
- developing modular implementation tools adaptable for different regional structures

- developing an accreditation procedure based on the WFD
- establishing transnational expert networks to maintain good practice transfer and expert exchange in and after the project

Need for transnational cooperation

Since the reuse market is international with a significant „grey“ sector of transboundary trade, the strategies for the implementation of the WFD reuse requirements must be developed within an international cooperation to avoid redundancies and inefficiencies. This will contribute to a more harmonised European market for reuse.

Relevance of the partnership

CERREC Partners are leading European reuse proponents and guarantee that the project results are of the highest quality. The relevance is very high since European policies still lack efficient practical tools for mainstreaming waste prevention and reuse.

Main activities

CERREC will

- identify development resources such as ideas, projects, relevant waste streams, good practices concerning reuse and repair services, including innovative services, niche markets and product-service concepts through research, gathering of expertise and stakeholders in meetings and networking activities
- identify and organise national and transnational stakeholders who contribute to analysis and strategy for national implementation of reuse, establish expert exchange on a high level of quality and practical relevance
- develop accreditation procedures and quality standards for repair and reuse centers and networks and for reuse products, develop a transnational cooperation platform for transboundary exchange of reusable wastes and reuse products based on these quality standards and on regulations for transboundary shipments of waste
- develop a toolbox with guidelines, manuals, strategies and good practice examples for regional reuse centers and networks compliant with the WFD and national legislations as well as with regional needs

Expected outputs and results

- Tool Box: Manuals, strategy guidelines, quality requirements and good practice examples as well as transnational cooperation contacts for the practical implementation of repair and reuse centers and networks according to the WFD, usable in different regional structures in CE
- an expertise exchange network for regional and local actors implementing and operating repair and reuse centers and networks
- an accreditation process for repair and reuse centers and networks according to the WFD

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