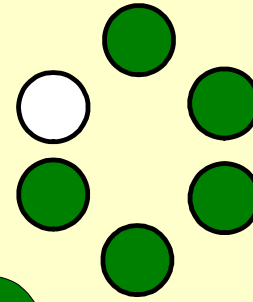


Reuse and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises

rreuse



We are ...

... the specialised European network of national and regional social economy federations and enterprises with activities in re-use and recycling. Similarly to our member-organisations, the European network combines both social and environmental objectives and gives them equal emphasis. We are already present in the majority of the member states with an aim to professionally cover the entire EU.

Our mission is ...

... the specialised European network of national and regional social economy federations and enterprises with activities in re-use and recycling. Similarly to our member-organisations, the European network combines both social and environmental objectives and gives them equal emphasis. We are already present in the majority of the member states with an aim to professionally cover the entire EU.

Re-use and recycling

Social economy organisations have been historically pioneers and innovators in this labour intensive and low profit activity that was of limited interest to the private sector. Today, the waste sector undergoes rapid and important changes, with both opportunities and risks for the social economy. Our members participate to the safeguard of natural resources through the re-use and the recycling of end-of-life products.

RREUSE wants

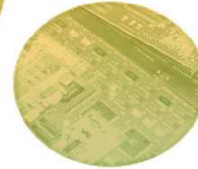
- a clear environment hierarchy that minimises waste and avoids resources squandering (producers' responsibility, early sorting, low VAT on second-hand goods, promotion of recycled material...)
- a normal payment of the environmental services provided.

Social aims

Where a number of environmental and social costs are externalised by the private sector, social economy favours a sustainable model where man and not profit is at the centre. If the structures are diverse, frequent common characteristics are the service to the community, a certain autonomy from the state and the inclusion of people at risk, under the conviction that a useful economic activity is better than an idleness. Our activity also reduces the social fracture by giving to the less favoured population access to cheap equipment.

RREUSE wants social clauses in public procurements.

Re-use and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises **rreuse** 



A network symbol of sustainable development



Some 40,000 men and women in the EU member states share common environmental and social objectives. For many years they have actively pursued waste reduction by collecting used clothes, equipment, furniture ... and then reselling or, where this is not feasible, recycle them. These social economic projects are often combined with local development objectives, such as reintegration of groups at risk.

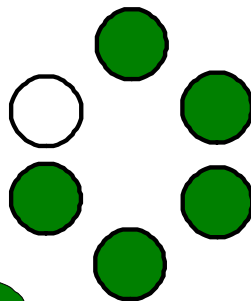
Today, waste treatment has become a huge economic activity with the entry of large multinational private operators. Social economy actors therefore also want to strengthen themselves through building their own networks at regional, national, and, more recently, at European level.



RREUSE, Brueghelstraat 31, B-2018 Antwerp, Belgium
Tel 0032 32 81 03 30 Fax 0032 32 81 73 30 e-mail rva@rreusingoop.net
Fighting members: R.U.S.E. Austria - R.V.C. Netherlands Belgium - R.V.E. France -
BAG Arbeit / RPS Germany - Icos Ambiente Italy - EFN The Netherlands - AERES / ARES Spain -
Byes Take / CRN Community Re-use - CREATE / PPN / Recycle-IT UK - Remade International

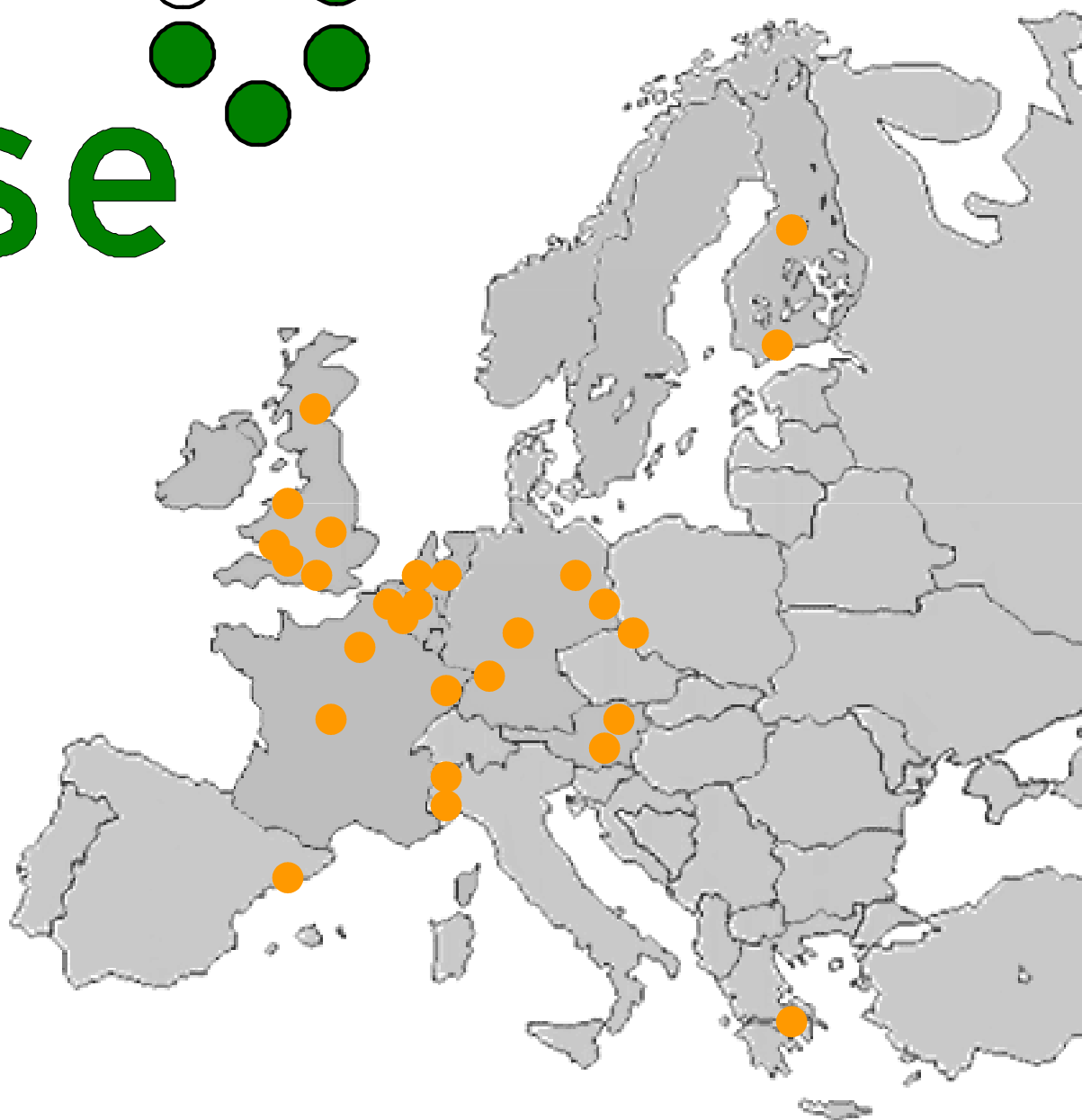
www.rreuse.org

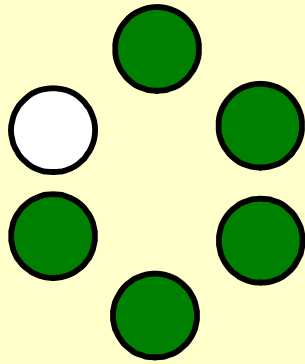
rreuse



Members:

R.U.S.Z (A)
RepaNet (A)
ARGE Müllvermeidung (A)
KVK (B)
RESSources (B)
BAG Arbeit
BAG Arbeit & Werkstatt Frankfurt (D)
AIRES (E)
AIRES & Fundacion Juvinter (E)
AERESS (E)
Envie Développement (F)
Envie Strasbourg (F)
Emmaüs (F)
Cylch (UK)
Community Recycling Network (UK)
CRN Scotland
Community Composting Network (UK)
Create (UK)
Furniture Recycling Network (UK)
Emmaüs International (I)
IDEA Ambiente (I)
bKN Arnheim (NL)
bKN Amersfoort (NL)
Työ & Toiminta Ry (SF)
Tervatulli Oy (SF)
Neo-Act Ltd (SF)

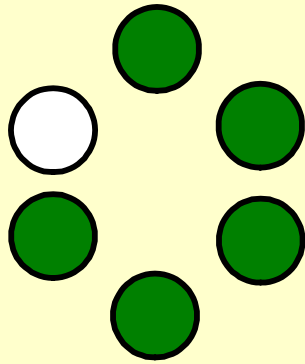




RREUSE

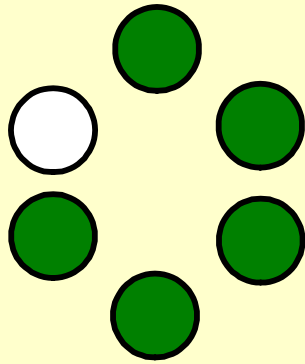
- Reuse and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises
- European network of national/regional networks of reuse and recycling social enterprises
- Members from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom
- Mission: to federate, represent and develop social economy enterprises with repair, reuse and recycling activities

... and get recognition of being an effective model of sustainable development !



RREUSE objectives

- Waste management hierarchy with focus on prevention and reuse
- Separate collection maximizing reuse of whole goods/appliances and components
- Establishment of accredited reuse and repair networks in 27 Member States
- Promotion of reused products
- Provide job and training opportunities for people at risk (long-term unemployed, disabled ...)
- Provide high-quality products at affordable prices to people with low income

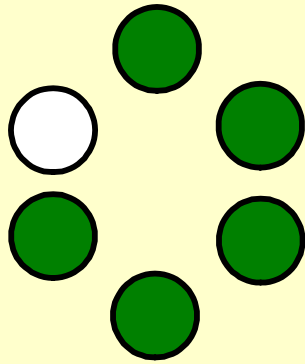


RREUSE members activities

1. Collecting from households or municipal waste collection sites
2. Sorting in reusable and non-reusable items
 - Cleaning – repairing – selling or
 - Dismantling and (preparing for) recycling

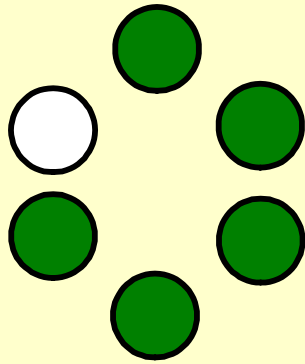
Main product groups

- Electrical and electronic appliances and components = WEEE
- Textile and clothing
- Furniture, household goods, books



Environmental benefits

- Repair and reuse avoid/delay products/components to become waste, reduce their overall ecological impact and conserve valuable natural resources
 - Reuse diminishes the need for new products and wasting of new virgin natural resources
 - Repair for reuse requires less energy and resources compared to recycling
- **Sustainable resource use + reduction of water and air pollution (incl. greenhouse gases)**
- **Reuse = after prevention best waste management method**

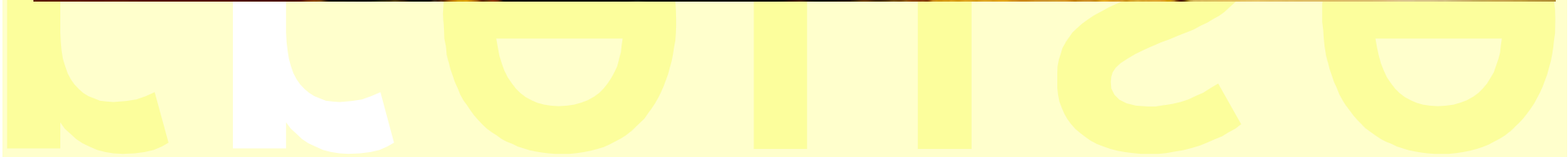


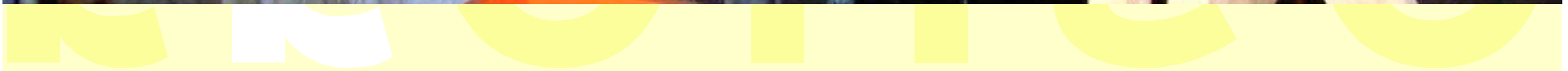
Social benefits

- Social enterprises **create jobs** for people at risk: long-term unemployed, disabled, youngsters ... leading to social reintegration

!! 40 000 jobs and 110 000 volunteers and trainees involved !!
- Reuse activities **provide essential household items** for people with low income (though more and more reuse and second hand is accepted by all socio-economic segments)



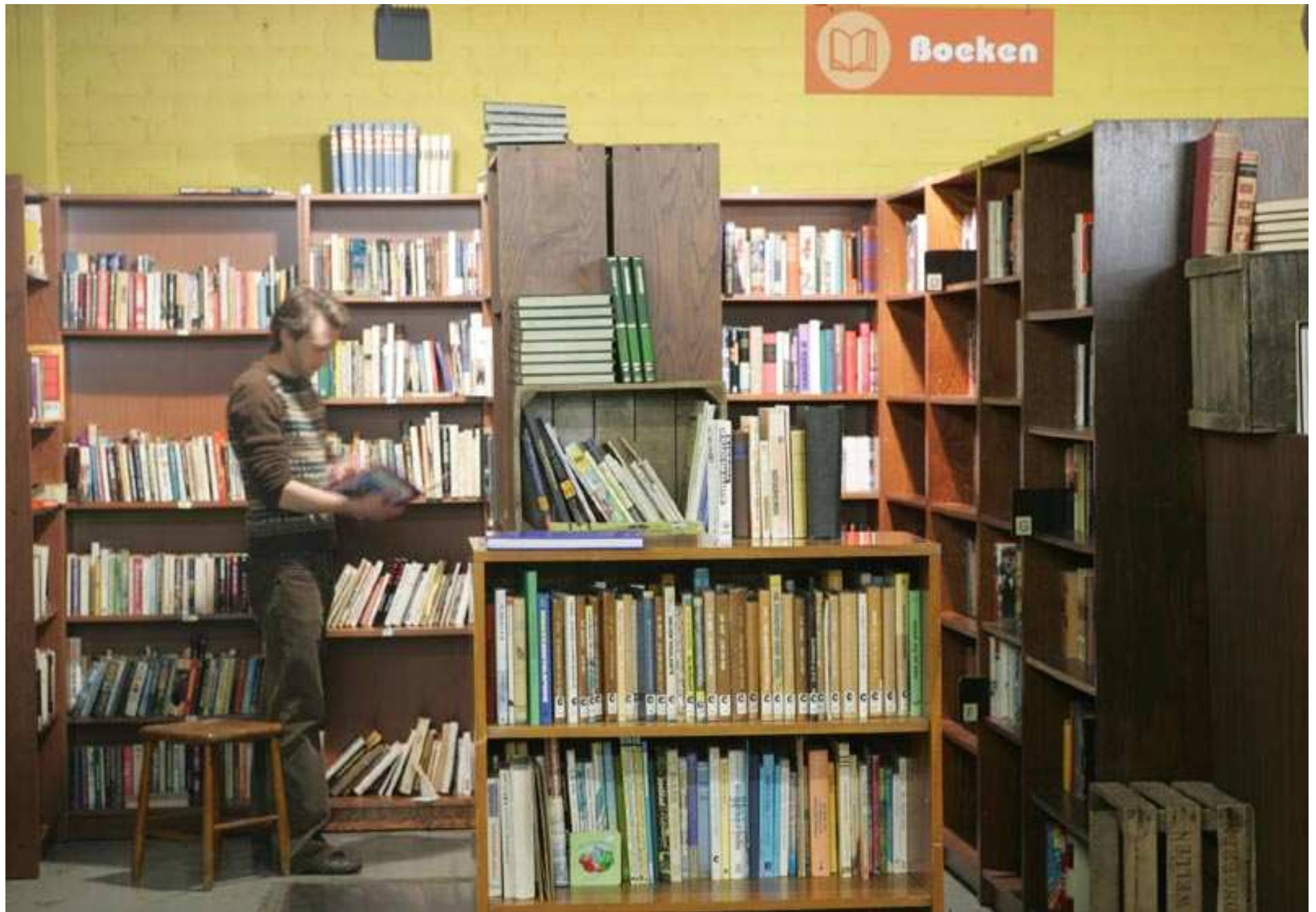


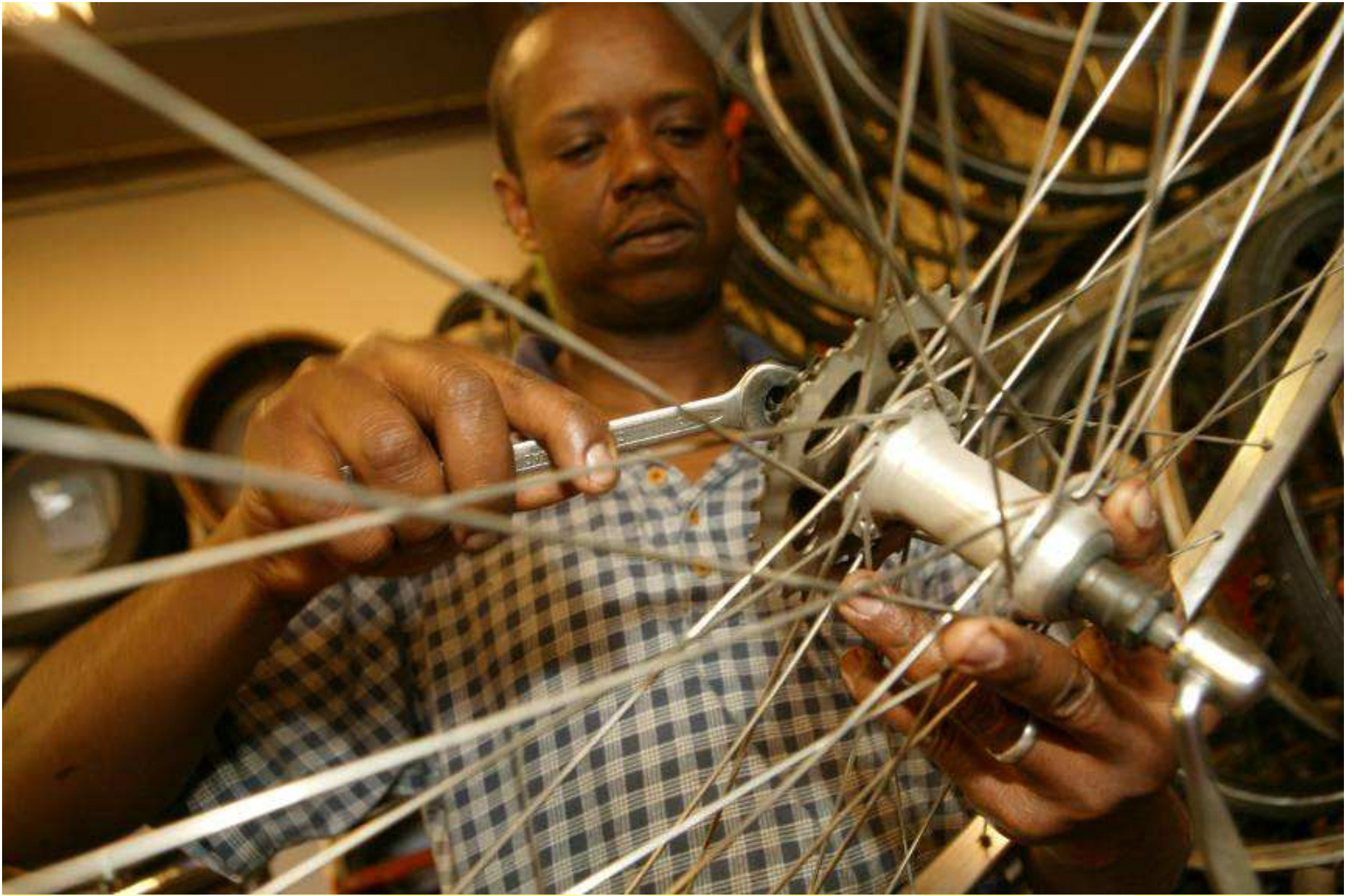




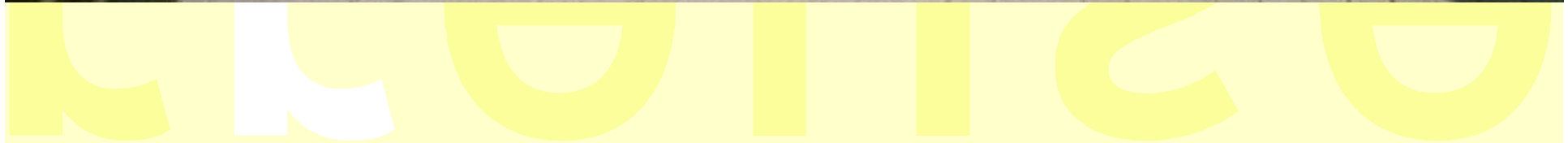
FRUIT & CO







ARTICLE





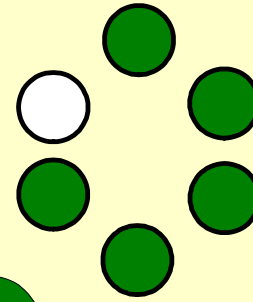
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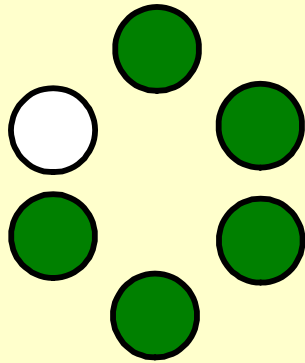




rr reuse



Reuse of WEEE



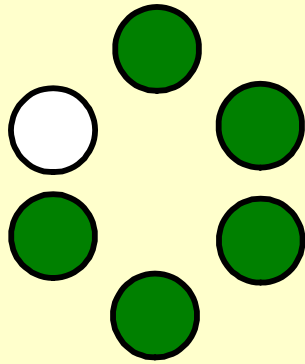
Reuse or buy new?

Some EEE producers claim we should throw away old EEE and buy new more energy-efficient equipment ... to save the climate

Should we?

Comprehensive environmental analysis shows: extended service life (reuse) is environmentally better than early replacement.

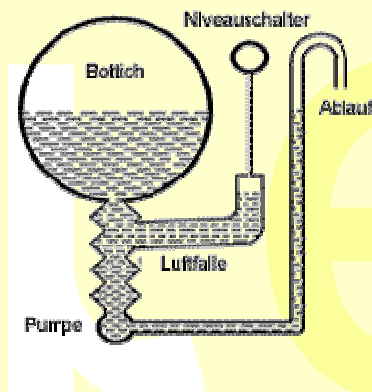
- Evaluations based on comprehensive environmental indicators tend to result in lower importance of use phase
- Evaluations only based on energy use can lead to wrong conclusions for the environmental impact!



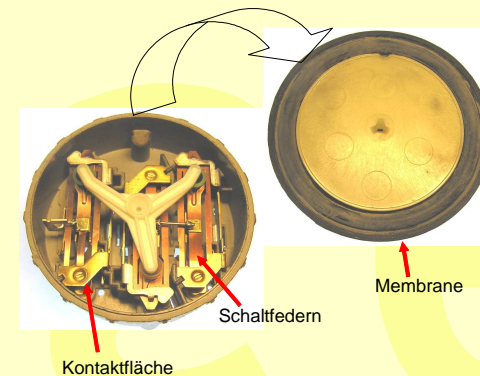
RREUSE Best Practice I: Increasing the Energy Efficiency of Old Washing Machines („Tuning of WM“)

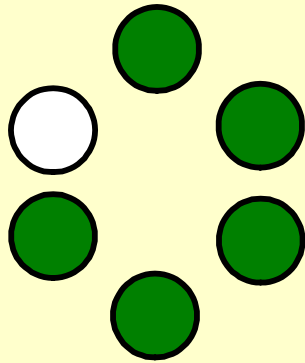
Following the European Standard for classifying new washing machines into the energy efficiency class system [\[1\]](#) the RREUSE-Member R.U.S.Z has developed a technical method to reduce the energy demand of old washing machines by 20% by reducing its water consumption thus making an energy efficiency class A washing machine out of an energy efficiency class C appliance. And this with absolutely no disadvantage concerning the cleaning results of the laundry.

[\[1\]](#) ÖVE/ÖNORM EN60456; Waschmaschinen für den Hausgebrauch – Verfahren zur Messung der Gebrauchseigenschaften; Österreichisches Normungsinstitut, 2005



Energy		Washing machine
Manufacturer Model		
More efficient		
A		B
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		
G		
Less efficient		
Energy consumption kWh/cycle	1.75	
<small>Based on specified test results for 60°C cotton cycle. Actual energy consumption will depend on how the appliance is used.</small>		
Washing performance	A B C D E F G	
Spin drying performance	A B C D E F G	
<small>A: higher G: lower</small>	1400	
Capacity (cotton) kg	5.0	
Water consumption	5.5	
Noise (dB(A) re 1 pW)	Washing	5.2
	Spinning	7.6
<small>Further information contained in product brochure</small>		



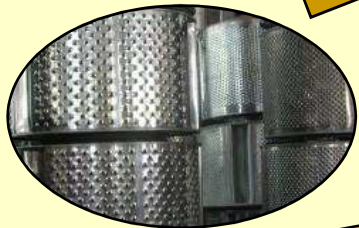


RREUSE Best Practice II: Sustainability Label for durable and easy to repair Electrical and Electronic Equipment

We are aiming at eco designed products which are labeled for signaling the consumers the difference concerning durability and reparability at retailer's shops. As we are working together with some 450 waste advisers and environmental counselors without specific economic interests, we expect a growth of the market share of labeled products which would be an (the only) incentive for the producers to increasingly put products on the market which fulfill the criteria set by the Austrian Standards Institute (ONR 192102 available at www.on-norm.at).



1. Product idea → prototype
2. Design and elaboration of technical standards
3. Collection of components and production

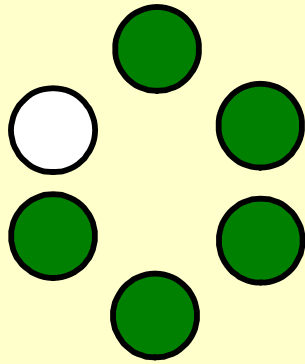


Drums of washing machines
key-pads of mobile phones



and other components

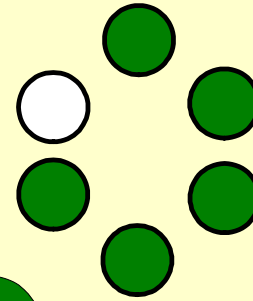




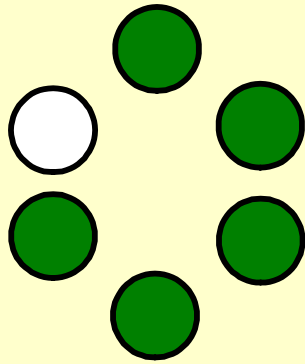
Reuse better than new

- Higher electricity consumption of older instruments is compensated by less energy consumption for production and manufacturing
 - Significantly higher efficiency improvement than currently achieved between old and new products is needed to make «timely replacement» worthwhile
 - Furthermore: consumer behaviour in use pattern and used electricity mix will have bigger impact than any replacement of product itself
- **EU's goal of SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT = highly energy-efficient product with design focused on reuse and easy repair**

rr reuse

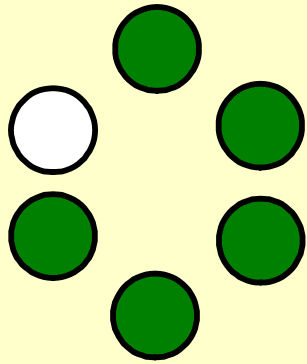


**Reuse under the current
WEEE Directive**



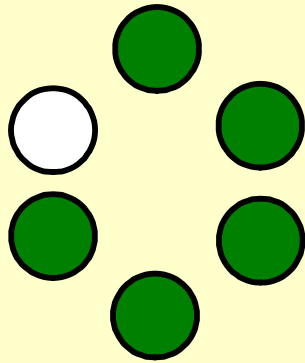
Product barriers to reuse

- Rapid pace of technologies and changing design (e.g. Windows Vista)
- Composition of recent products: plastic products more difficult to repair than metal ones
- Product design making repair/reuse impossible
- Decreasing quality and lifespan of new products (e.g. textile, consumer electronics)
- Scarcity of knowledge about goods



Policy barriers to reuse

- Lack of policy support from Member States (on environmental or social grounds)
- Producers hinder and marginalise reuse as they see it competing on new sales
- Labour costs: repair often exceeding costs of new products (*made in China*)
- Overregulation: reuse is not same as waste treatment center



Design for reuse

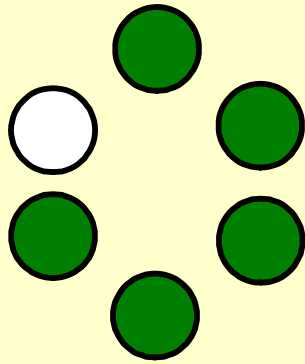
➤ WEEE Directive

- «Member States shall encourage the design and production of EEE that facilitates (...) in particular the reuse and recycling either of the whole appliance, their components or materials. Producers should not prevent WEEE from being reused by specific design features or manufacturing processes, except if they present overriding advantages, regarding environment and/or safety requirements» (art. 4)

➤ Practice

- Producers rarely design EEE taking into consideration reuse of products or components (few exceptions, e.g. photocopiers)

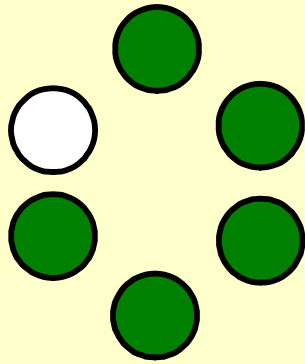
→ REVIEW and other legislation: stronger focus and obligation to increase reusability and reparability of EEE



WEEE selection for reuse

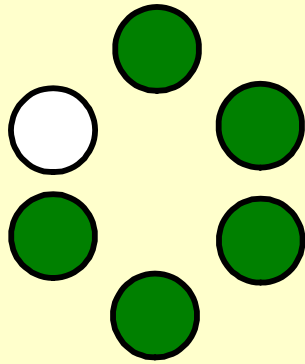
- WEEE-directive (2002)
 - «Collection and transport shall be carried out in a way which optimizes reuse and recycling of those components or whole appliances capable of being reused or recycled» (art. 5.4)

 - Practice
 - Take-back systems concentrate on low-cost recycling in centralized plants endangering existing local or regional reuse centres
 - Rarely selection on reusable EEE on municipal collection sites or after collection by retailers
- REVIEW: obligation of selection of reusable WEEE in all collection sites at the earliest stage needed



Reuse targets

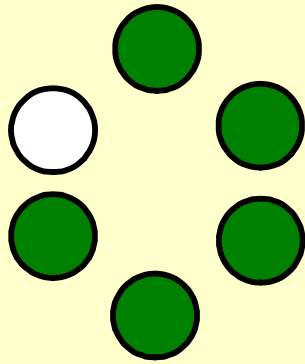
- WEEE Directive (2002)
 - «Member States shall give priority to the reuse of whole appliances»
 - But also «until december 2008 reuse shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the recycling and recovery targets»
 - Practice
 - No incentive for producers to promote reuse
 - Implementation in MS not in favour of priority reuse
 - Improper data collection by the Commission regarding reuse
- REVIEW: introduction of targets for reuse of whole appliances needed



Financing of reuse

➤ WEEE Directive

- «Producers provide at least for the financing of the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of WEEE from private households deposited at collection facilities, set up under Article 5(2)» (art. 8.1)
- Thus producers or (due to transfer of obligations) the collective schemes are legally obliged to
 - ensure reuse and bear the costs for collection of reusable appliances too (not only for part collected going to treatment plants)
 - bear even the costs of organising reuse, as reuse is the first priority
- Practice: this is not the case for the moment
- REVIEW: clarification and obligation of producers' financial responsibilities regarding collection and reuse are needed



Information for reusers

➤ WEEE-Directive (2002)

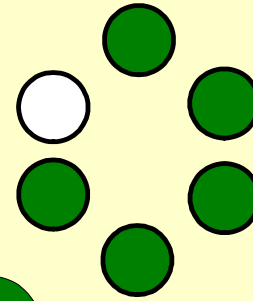
- Requires, in order to facilitate reuse, that producers provide reuse and treatment information for new EEE put onto the market (art. 11.1)

➤ Practice

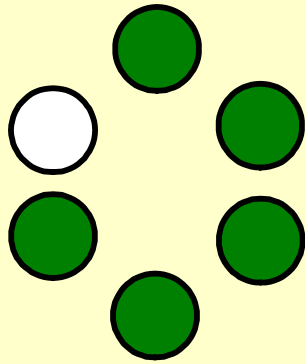
- Information difficult or not to be obtained (expensive or impossible)

→ REVIEW: should oblige producers for providing all information on all products to accredited reuse-centers

rr reuse



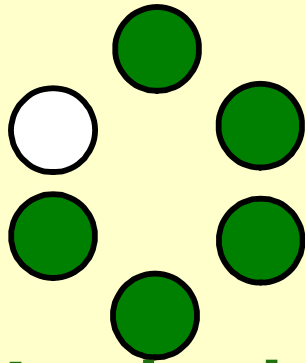
Conclusions for the revision



Revision should

1. Lead to increased REUSE QUANTITY

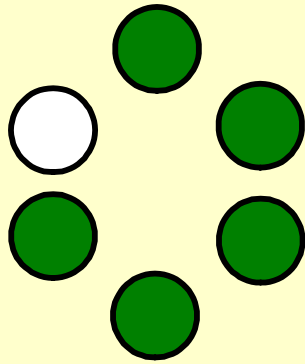
- **Create overall target for reuse of whole appliances: 10% of collected WEEE**
- **Collect data to introduce reuse targets per product group in a later phase**
- **Oblige selection of reusable WEEE in all collection sites at the earliest stage**
- **Make reuse activities visible in monitoring and reporting systems covering the entire WEEE stream**
- **Support research, project development and initiating reuse networks in new member states**



Revision should

2. Lead to increased REUSE QUALITY

- **Recognize fully the social aspects and importance of social economy in repair and reuse of WEEE**
- **Establish quality criteria for reuse and accreditation for reuse centres**
- **Establish easy and clear criteria and ensure inspection in order to tackle illegal waste exports 'for reuse'**
- **Oblige producers to provide for free all necessary information of all available products on the market to authorized repair and reuse centres**
- **Describe clear treatment technologies to make the most environmentally friendly dismantling and highest component reuse possible**



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