

Further information and sources about the Second-Hand sector in Belgium

Press releases about second hand topics and reuse in Belgium

On this matter it is worthy to remark the website directory of the most important Belgian non-profit networks, RESSOURCES and KVK.

- Within the web site of RESSOURCES it is easy to have an insight look at the “news” directory of this website (<http://www.res-sources.be/fr/news.asp>). It permits to step in the great range of the recent press releases of the non-profit network. Since the main goal of RESSOURCES is the recovery and recycling in the Wallonia region and in Brussels, it is quite easy to find out a lot of information related to this part of the Belgian second hand and reuse market topics. The press releases are divided into several sections dealing with different matters related to these fields of action.
- As far as the no-profit network KVK is concerned, even if on this website address information are displayed in Flemish language, some recent press releases can be found on this directory of the organisation: <http://www.kringloop.net/common/kvk.asp>.

Publications and books dealing with second hand topics and reuse in Belgium

- First of all, the non-profit network RESSOURCES published the 2007 report containing a detailed view of its values and the mission strategy the network intends to carry out. In addition, RESSOURCES recently published its brochure that gives basic useful information on the activity of the network, on how to be part of the partnership and on the results and opportunities that could derive in stepping in the RESSOURCES network. Both documents can be downloaded under: www.qualiprosh.eu (download, articles and contribution to Second-Hand issues).
- The Flemish network KVK has published and continues to publish several documents of interest for the project we are running. Nevertheless, most of the publications are not displayed on the website address in English or French, so they are much more easily available in paper format.
- A further document worthy of attention is the report on the reemployment strategy in the Wallonia region. It is published by the Research Centre of the Consumers’ Organisations and is available on the website address of this organisation (crioc.be). It deals with different aspects of the reemployment sector and it is concluded with very useful recommendations on this issue.
- Furthermore it should be mentioned the interesting publications edited by the Bruxelles Institute for the Environment Management (IBGE). These publications aim at addressing young students and their families on the great importance of a friendly environmental behaviour. Even if you can find several publications on the Ibge home website address (ibgebim.be),

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Founding members: R.U.S.Z. Austria - KVK/ RESsources Belgium - ENVIE France - BAG Arbeit / Recyclingpartner Germany - Idea Ambiente Italy - BKN The Netherlands – AERESS / AIRES Spain – CRN / CREATE / FRN / Recycle-IT UK – SEK Y Finland – ERS Greece - Emmaüs International

- We would like to further focus the attention on the monthly reports updated up to April 2008 and on the pedagogical dossier published on 2007 and available at this address: http://documentation.bruxellesenvironnement.be/documents/Empreinte_ecologique_FR_2007.PDF.
- And it is worthy to be mentioned the publication activity of the Public Waste Agency of Flanders (OVAM). Have a look on the execution plan on the ecological management of waste. Here you can find the entire document in the French version (http://www.ovam.be/jahia/Jahia/cache/bypass/pid/176?appid=39739_29&appparams=ht tp%3A%2F%2Fwww.ovam.be%2FovamPublicationsWeb_myjahiasite%2FPublicaties&resetAppSession=true#field_39739), available also in the Dutch version.

Information about national (and international) events, activities and congresses that deal with reuse, recycling and sustainability

- It is worth to recall the reemployment week held by RESSOURCES. The main goal of this week, held on a yearly basis, is to approach those who do not concretely refer to the social economy sector.
- In addition, one of the second hand networked organisation, Les Petits Riens, is used to organise (they had their fifth edition in October 2007) the shining “Fashion Show”, where second hand clothes remodelled for the circumstance by the best Belgian designers are presented during an event that usually sees the presence of the Belgian star system and even of some components the Belgian royal family. You can easily find the information on this and other events on the three-monthly publication of this organisation: here you have the website address of the first publication of 2008 (<http://www.petitsriens.be/Journal%20F%20et%20N/journal155.pdf>).
- Furthermore, the publications carried out by the international organisation Acr+ seem fair of attention. I would just mention their website address that could be very useful for anyone willing to get more information on them (<http://www.acrplus.org/index.asp?page=25>). Even if this is not a Belgian organisation and subscription is needed to access some publications, it would be useful to have an insight look at the updated documents of this network.
- We would like to remind that RREUSE will participate in the Green Week, organised by the DG Environment of the European Commission, to be held between the 3rd and 6th of June. RREUSE participated also in the 2007 Green Week. This incoming event will be a further opportunity to deal with several matters of interest as sustainable use of natural resources, focusing on waste management, sustainable consumption and production.
 - The themes defined for the event are:
 - resources and waste management,
 - sustainable consumption and production,
 - nature and biodiversity,
 - climate change.
 - There will be nine sessions each theme.

Interesting new entrepreneurial approaches that refer to our project topics

Taking into account the network RESSOURCES, should be mentioned the ongoing approach implemented in the projects Electro/REV, EMAS/Managens and Valeurs Ajoutées and Solid'R. Each of these projects touch on several issues within the remit of the QualiProSH project topics.

- First of all, the project Electro/REV inspires its action on the French network ENVIE. It aims at giving quality guarantee to the electric and electronic appliances through the Electro/REV label. This label certifies the respect of the procedure in terms of technical work, after sale service and way of management of personnel training. It should be reminded that the label is recognized by Recupel, the official Belgian organization responsible for the collection and recycling of WEEE. You can find below a directory of the RESSOURCES website address with these and other information concerning this project (http://www.res-sources.be/fr/projets_fiche.asp?pk=3).
- The projects EMAS/Managens and Valeurs Ajoutées were launched in 2003 and 2005 respectively. Their aim is to set up more or less normative tools in the framework of quality management programs based on environmental norms to be respected. On the web site below you can find more information on these initiatives (http://www.res-sources.be/fr/projets_fiche.asp?pk=4).
- Another RESSOURCES project is Solid'R. Its aim is to put an ethical label on the textile second hand products. The label means on the one hand transparency on the way the partners raise their funds and on the other that the firm respects the social and ethical principles of a social driven economy market. This is particularly interesting in consideration of the growing fair and unfair competitors coming from all over the world. As for the other two RESSOURCES mentioned project, I will bring your attention on the website address below where you can find the information on Solid'R (http://www.res-sources.be/fr/projets_fiche.asp?pk=1).
- As far as the KVK activity is concerned, it should be reminded the Flemish network continues its strong quality policy mainly through three levels.
 - The first is the branding system for the shops which are then recognized as 'De Kringwinkel'. 68 % of the networked shops have acquired this brand. It aims at distinguishing these shops by guaranteeing them common communication instruments as a logo, instruction on shop organizations and presentation.
 - A further initiative is 'Revisie', a quality label for electronic appliances. 73 % of the WEEE-reuse centers have been accredited and are using the 'Revisie' label. The aim is to offer safe and reliable second hand electric appliances. As for Electro/REV, Recupel has recognized the Revisie-label as a valid quality and guarantee label.
 - In conclusion, it is worthy to mention the EFQM model. It is a system that aims to create the optimal conditions to satisfy the needs of all stakeholders such as clients and costumers. 55 % of the members are working with this model.

All the information on the KVK approach on second hand and reuse topics can be downloaded from the KVK web site, [www. Kringloop.net](http://www.Kringloop.net)

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