

2LIFES Partnership Discuss Re-use Initiatives from the Public Sector

PRESS RELEASE – 20 February 2020

For immediate release

On 20 February 2020, the European Interreg project, [2LIFES](#), met in Brussels to discuss re-use initiatives from the public sector. Organised by RREUSE, this Workshop for Capacity-Building Building aimed to train and inform the partnership about the best re-use practices worldwide.

Focusing on current re-use practices in Belgium, Yannick d'Otreppe from [Bruxelles Environnement](#), a public authority, detailed Brussels' regional project "Be Circular" which pushes for re-use within the building and construction sector. He insisted on the need to give materials and products a second life to ensure resource-efficiency. Hinting at the growing need for behavioural change, Yannick d'Otreppe concluded, *"Numerous tools promoting re-use exist and the circular transition is on its way. But we need to increase the offer of re-used materials to stimulate the demand"*.

From an EU perspective, Jana Zurkova, from [RREUSE](#) and representing a related re-use Interreg project SURFACE, mentioned the pressing need for *"strong relations between public authorities and social enterprises to ensure a prosperous social environment"*. She provided the partnership with examples of best re-use practices from the RREUSE network in [Austria](#), [The Netherlands](#) and the [United States](#).

Complementing the discussion, Emmanuelle Romain, from [RESSOURCES](#), highlighted a positive Belgian achievement wherein the "Waste Valoriser" job – dealing with all incoming waste streams in a re-use centre – is now officially recognised by the regions of Wallonia and Brussels.

On a more practical note, the 2LIFES partnership also visited the re-use centre of Belgian social enterprise *Les Petits Riens*, in Anderlecht. The site visit provided valuable insights into the main steps of a re-use centre such as pre-sorting, sorting, reallocating and selling donated items. The importance of the link between economic, social and environmental dynamics was highlighted. Not only do *Les Petits Riens* collect 8,000 tonnes of unwanted goods a year in Belgium, they also provide training and job opportunities for people distanced from the labour market and shelter for over 290 homeless people.

2LIFES will soon be conducting surveys as the partnership has been working on a psychosocial study to identify barriers to re-use and a situational analyses of re-use initiatives to identify uncovered needs and gaps to improve the situation in the various local territories.



NOTES TO EDITORS

2LIFES is a project part of Interreg Europe helping regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policies. 2LIFES focuses on re-use and serves as an instrument to help boost re-use through public policies. Through best practices and policy instruments, the seven project partners are active in the political backing of re-use to foster waste minimisation and resource efficiency. The project involves €1.83 million and is set to run for 3.5 years, lasting until 31 January 2023.

For more information: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/2lifes/>

 2LIFES_EU

 2LIFES_EU

 2LIFESEU

Press contact

Kelly Piron, Communication and Advocacy Officer

kelly.piron@rreuse.org | +32 (0)2 894 46 12