

ACTIVITY REPORT

2018

rreuse 



ABOUT US

RREUSE is an international non-profit network representing social enterprises active in the field of re-use, repair and recycling.

Drawing on first-hand experiences of its members, RREUSE's mission is to ensure that policies, innovative partnerships and the sharing of best practices promote and develop the role of social enterprises active in the circular economy.

← At the heart of RREUSE's vision for Europe is circular activities that foster social value, create locally inclusive jobs whilst supporting vulnerable individuals.

In 2018, RREUSE federated 27 members across 25 European countries and the USA.

→ www.rreuse.org



MAIN ACTIVITIES OF RREUSE MEMBERS INCLUDE



Collection, sorting and redistribution of used textiles and clothing



Collection, repair and re-use of electronics, furniture and other bulky waste



Re-use of other household items such as bric-a-brac, books, toys and paint



Operating charity and second hand shops



Collection and recycling of paper, cardboard, wood, plastics and metals



Home, community and cooperative composting



Awareness raising campaigns, international projects, exchange of best practice and business support

RREUSE members annually divert around 1,000,000 million tonnes of materials from landfill through re-use, repair and recycling, generating a combined turnover of 1,200,000,000 EUR. These activities enable the 850 social enterprises federated by RREUSE's wider network to fulfil their social missions, which for the most part, is the provision of work opportunities, training and support services for disadvantaged individuals. There are approximately 95,000 employees, volunteers and trainees engaging in the activities of RREUSE's members.

→ www.rreuse.org

RREUSE NETWORK IMPACT 2018

RREUSE IS AN INDEPENDENT NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION REPRESENTING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF RE-USE, REPAIR AND RECYCLING

 **27 MEMBERS ACROSS
25 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
AND THE USA**

 **95 000 EMPLOYEES,
VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINEES**
ENGAGED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF
RREUSE'S MEMBERS

850 SOCIAL ENTERPRISES
ARE PART OF RREUSE'S WIDER NETWORK

2 000 SHOPS WELCOMED
39 000 000 CUSTOMERS
[THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO SERVING THE
WHOLE POPULATION OF POLAND]
CONTRIBUTING TO AN OVERALL
RREUSE MEMBER ACTIVITY
TURNOVER OF € 1 200 000 000



1 000 000 TONNES

[THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO THE WEIGHT OF 137 EIFFEL TOWERS]

OF MATERIAL DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL THROUGH
RE-USE, REPAIR AND RECYCLING, WHICH INCLUDED:

FURNITURE
**200 000
TONNES**
collected

OF WHICH



**80 000
TONNES**
re-used

TEXTILES
**260 000
TONNES**
collected

OF WHICH



**95 000
TONNES**
re-used

ELECTRICALS
**290 000
TONNES**
collected

OF WHICH



**20 000
TONNES**
re-used

**BOOKS
& RECORDS**
**16 000
TONNES**
collected

OF WHICH



**5 500
TONNES**
re-used

BRIC-A-BRAC
**30 000
TONNES**
collected

OF WHICH



**14 000
TONNES**
re-used

RREUSE MEMBERS COLLECTED AND HANDLED 22 DIFFERENT MATERIAL STREAMS:
FURNITURE, ELECTRICALS, TEXTILES, BOOKS & RECORDS, BRIC-A-BRAC, TOYS, DIY, BICYCLES, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BIOWASTE, VEGETABLE OIL, FOOD DONATIONS, GLASS, PAPER, WOOD, PACKAGING & PLASTICS, METAL SCRAP, USED CARTRIDGES, BATTERIES, MATTRESSES, PAINT, OTHER MATERIALS

2018: MANY KEY INVOLVEMENTS

In 2018, numerous advocacy efforts in environmental legislation came to fruition. RREUSE also expanded its capacity and engagement in linking key EU Commission initiatives in the field of social affairs and inclusion within the circular economy. The latter resulted from a new partnership operating grant agreement with the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) - a first for the organisation!





Environment / Circular Economy Policy

- EU Waste Framework Directive
- EU Ecodesign regulations
- EU Standards related to repair and refurbishment of electronic goods



Economic Policies

- VAT Directive
- Public Procurement Directive
- Multi-Annual Financial Framework, notably ESF+ and Cohesion Funds



Social Policies

- EU Pillar of Social Rights and the European Semester Process
- Labour support mechanisms for the long term unemployed



New partnership with DG EMPL

RREUSE was delighted to sign a **four-year framework partnership agreement** with the European Commission's DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. This collaboration greatly supports RREUSE's mission to foster a policy framework endorsing the role of social enterprises in a circular economy, all the while fulfilling the Commission's aim of fighting social exclusion, poverty and providing access to employment. It will also enable RREUSE to diversify and extend its advocacy portfolio to include EU VAT Rules and the EU Pillar of Social Rights.

RREUSE joins GECES Expert Group

For the first time, the EU Commission selected RREUSE to join the high-level Expert Group on Social Enterprise and Social Economy, set to run for six years. Established as part of the Social Business Initiative (SBI) and launched by the Commission in 2011, this group succeeds the Commission's Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES).

One of the main tasks of the group is to provide the Commission with advice on the elaboration and implementation of policies

strengthening the social economy and social enterprises ecosystem within Member States and the international arena.

In light of this, RREUSE endeavours to bring valuable contributions and expertise to the group through its wide social enterprise network and participation in opening meetings and sub-groups on social enterprise clusters.



RREUSE IN NUMBERS:

25

SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS

38

THEMATIC WEBINARS, WORKING
GROUPS AND INTERNAL MEETINGS

25

ORIGINAL NEWS ITEMS
SHARED

9

ENGAGEMENTS IN EU
POLICY FILES

63

CONFERENCES
ATTENDED

4

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
ORGANISED

5

MEDIA OUTLETS MENTIONING
RREUSE

21

POSITION PAPERS, REPORTS
AND REACTIONS TO
COMMISSION CONSULTATIONS

5

INVOLVEMENTS IN
COMMISSION EXPERT GROUPS
AND PLATFORMS

+90%

FOLLOWERS ON
LINKEDIN

+19%

FOLLOWERS ON
TWITTER

+25%

FOLLOWERS ON
FACEBOOK



ENGAGING AND SHAPING EUROPEAN POLICY



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

EU Waste Laws looking more favourable towards re-use

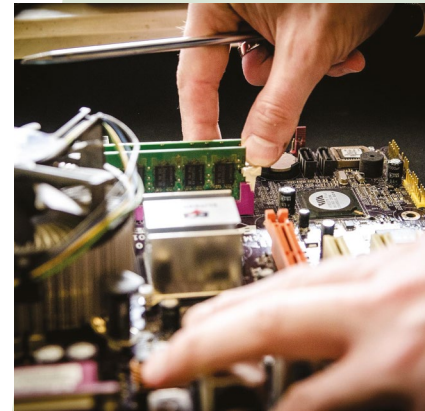
Following the EU Circular Economy Package in 2015, RREUSE widely engaged EU institutions, policy makers and stakeholders, continuously pressing for clearer and stronger rules on waste prevention, re-use and preparation for re-use activities.

Whilst less ambitious than the European Parliament's original negotiating position, EU legislators finally reached a deal over the new EU Waste Framework Directive in 2018. The revised framework reflected a number of RREUSE's proposals to support the re-use sector. RREUSE welcomed the agreement but insisted that during the transposition phase, Member States will need to further prioritise re-use in national initiatives, including through formal targets.

Following the Directive publication, RREUSE bolstered support to its members and national governments by collecting and sharing good practices, ultimately turning guidelines into concrete actions during the transposition of the law.

The secretariat also supported the Commission and its research partners in specified follow-up actions. Most notably, RREUSE actively helped draft a common methodology to measure re-use at EU level, with a view to collect reliable data and encourage the Commission to propose re-use targets by 2024.

While the new laws are certainly a step in the right direction, a lot remains to be done at EU level in terms of pushing for binding targets and learning from the countries and regions where they already exist.



The right to repair your washing machine

Since 2012, RREUSE has actively advocated the need to overcome obstacles in repairing appliances such as limited access to spare parts and repair manuals, and difficulties in opening appliances non-destructively.

Back in 2017, the EU Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) published proposals concerning design requirements related to ease of repair for certain products including washing machines, dishwashers, dryers and fridges. RREUSE enriched these proposals in collaboration with ECOS, iFixit, the Coolproducts campaign, the EEB and TopTen. In 2018, the 'Right to Repair Movement' gained ground, with RREUSE joining forces with iFixit, the EEB and ECOS to support concrete measures ensuring easier and cheaper repair.

As a member of the Commission's Ecodesign Consultation Forum, RREUSE engaged directly in eco-design regulations, for which the Commission and Member States agreed on Ecodesign standardisation. These will oblige manufacturers to produce appliances that are easily disassembled, as well as ensuring that spare parts and repair manuals are easily accessible to professional repairers. However, these measures should be enhanced by ensuring more products respect these principles by granting free access to repair manuals.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Engaging on labour market support mechanisms for the long-term unemployed

In July 2018, as part of an evaluation on the implementation of a 2016 Council Recommendation, [RREUSE](#) [replied](#) to a public consultation on the integration of long-term unemployed into the labour market. RREUSE presented its members with examples and suggestions on tackling low employment rates associated with national labour market policies.

Pushing for reduced VAT rates to support re-use and repair

After strong engagement with the EU Commission and Council representatives on the VAT revision process, [RREUSE](#) [published an analysis](#) detailing how a proposal to revise the EU VAT Directive – if adopted – would affect its members. As part of the revision, RREUSE feels that lower VAT rates should apply for second-hand products, repair services and any product or service contributing to social welfare.

PUT
SECOND HAND
FIRST

Supporting social enterprises in the circular economy to meet EU2020 objectives

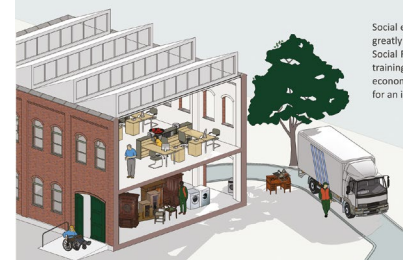
The European Semester, a tool contributing to the coordination of economic policies across the EU, consists of two processes:

- Member States' annual publication of the National Reform Programmes (NRPs) to present policies aimed at countering macroeconomic imbalances and boosting jobs and growth
- At the end of the process, the council of the EU adopts country-specific recommendations

[RREUSE examined](#) whether various NRPs addressed both the circular and social economy as a means of tackling poverty and environmental degradation. While over half the Member States addressed the circular economy, only 11 mentioned social economy enterprises. In parallel, the 2018 country-specific recommendations failed to address measures against social exclusion and unemployment. In light of this, RREUSE invited EU actors to recognise the importance of social enterprises in creating jobs for disadvantaged people while preserving natural resources.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES ACTIVE IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AS KEY ACTORS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 03. Equal opportunities | 10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment |
| 04. Active support to employment | 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities |
| 05. Secure and adaptable employment | 20. Access to essential services |



Social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling greatly contribute to making the European Pillar of Social Rights a reality. By creating local green jobs and training opportunities for individuals at risk of socio-economic exclusion, they provide a compelling model for an inclusive circular economy.

EUROPEAN PROJECTS



SURFACE

Smart Re-use Parks in Central Europe

SURFACE (Interreg Central Europe) identifies and establishes re-use oriented services in EU regions, turning them into 'Smart Re-use Parks' integrated within local waste prevention and management strategies.



ReWEEE

Better handling of waste electricals in Greece

The ReWEEE project (Life+) aims to prevent the creation of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) by setting up two sorting and re-use centres. These centres focus on collection, storage, sorting and preparation for re-use of WEEE.



BIOHEC-LIFE

Used cooking oil and social enterprise

The BIOHEC-LIFE project aims to develop the potential of bio-waste for a circular Europe. The project produces competitive and advanced biofuels derived from used cooking oils through innovative technological processes.



MEMBERSHIP & NETWORKING

In 2018, RREUSE was delighted to welcome two new members to its network:

Kierratyskeskus

Kierrätyskeskus, the Helsinki Metropolitan Area Reuse Centre, is a non-profit social enterprise with 7 re-use shops in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa and represents over 400 people. In 2017, the re-use centres sold 2,7 million items and 1,4 million items were donated for free.

Uuskasutuskeskus

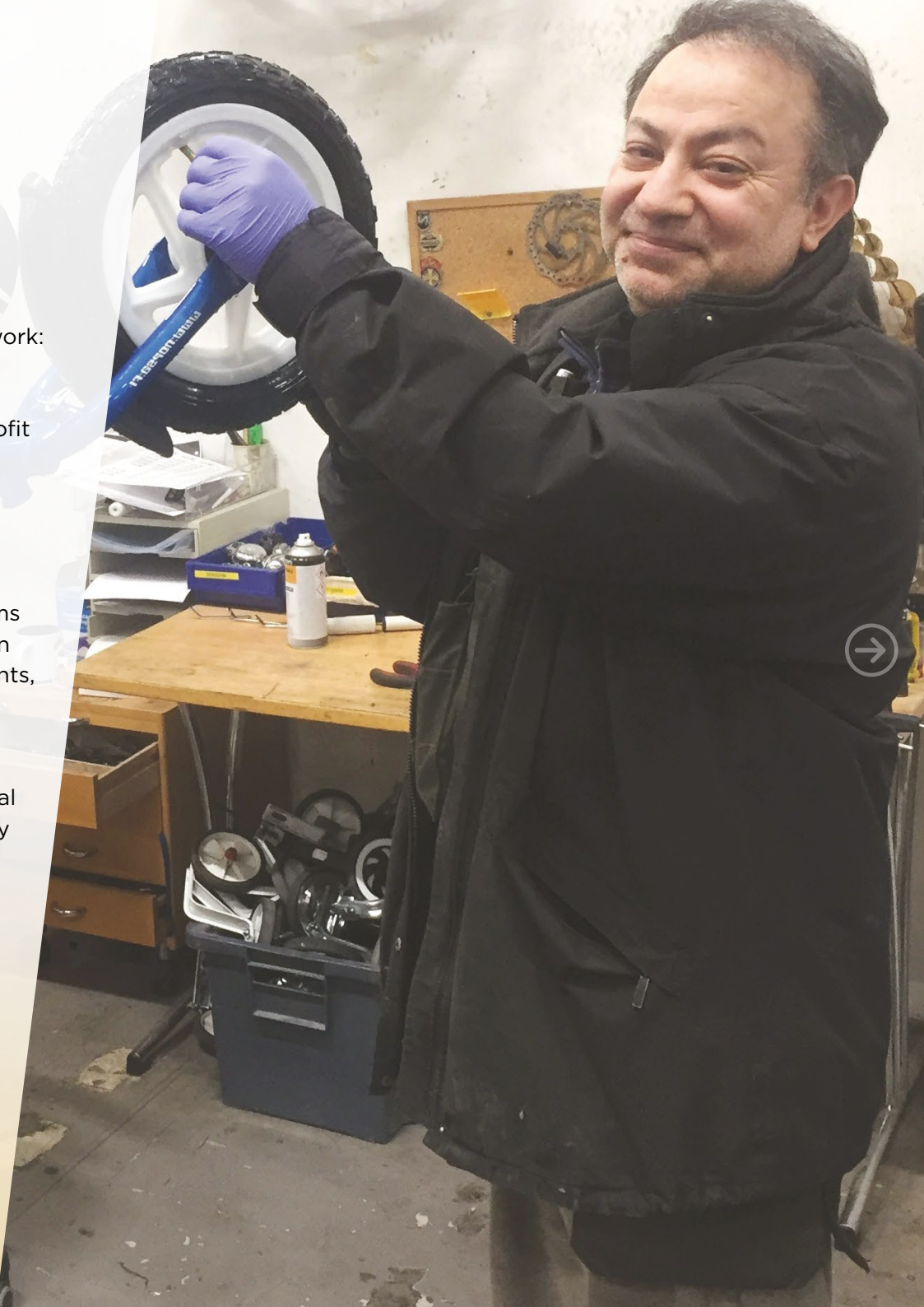
Uuskasutuskeskus is a non-profit social enterprise aiming to put used items back into circulation, ensuring re-use and re-design are easily accessible in Estonia. Uuskasutuskeskus currently has 12 re-use centres, 6 donation points, 100 employees, 150,000 annual donors and 1,500,000 annual visitors.

Plenty of networking opportunities

Every year, RREUSE hosts three network meetings bringing together social enterprise representatives to discuss new experiences, the social economy developments and new re-use and recycling initiatives across Europe. In 2018, our meetings took place in Vienna, Athens and Nijmegen.

Highlights of these meetings included:

- The launch of an Austrian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform
- Our member, RepaNet, was awarded the prestigious Environment Prize of Vienna
- Discussions on the re-use construction and demolition of materials, textiles, the EU's social policy agenda and many more
- First-hand experiences through numerous site visits to waste management and re-use facilities

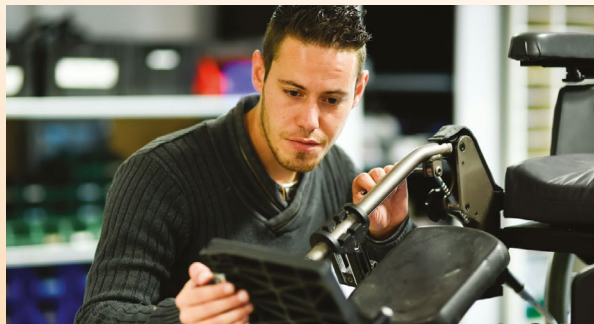


MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS 2018

French social enterprise network cut costs for disabled people by refurbishing medical equipment

In 2018, [Envie France established 'Envie Autonomie'](#), an initiative aimed at repairing medical equipment such as beds, wheel-chairs and walkers. By collecting, renovating, and reusing medical equipment, Envie prevents waste and provides new opportunities for local green and inclusive jobs. More importantly, this scheme helped vulnerable and disabled populations reduce their medical expenses by half through the purchase of refurbished equipment rather than buying new. Envie is now a licensed medical reseller providing one-year guarantee on refurbished medical products.

Envie Autonomie is an initiative set up by Envie Federation which has a wide network of 50 social enterprises supporting 3,000 local jobs of which 2,200 were dedicated to individuals distanced from the labour market.



Spanish study shows zero taxation on second-hand goods not a 'loss' to state budget

AERESS, the Spanish association of social and solidarity enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling [issued a study](#), calling on its government to introduce VAT exemptions for second-hand products. The study highlighted that VAT contributions from second-hand sales represented only 0.02 % of the total collected, insisting the monetary loss would be minimal. However, with the help of VAT exemptions, the expected social impact on job creation and work integration was highly positive, estimating that the re-use sector in Spain could support approximately 30,000 jobs by 2020.



Belgian partnership to avoid camping gear from going to waste

Tomorrowland, the world-famous festival, attracts about 400.000 people each year, 38.000 of which use the Dreamville campsite. Annually, about 75 tonnes of camping equipment are left behind. The Love Tomorrow platform and the social enterprise De Kringwinkel Ecoso [collaborated to re-use](#) abandoned gear instead of throwing it away. With the support of volunteers, the equipment is gathered, sorted, cleaned, repaired and re-used or upcycled into new products such as re-usable bags. The partnership not only allows vast amounts of camping gear to get a second life but also creates jobs locally for people distant from the labour market.



COMMUNICATION

Annual conference

From 22-23rd November 2018, RREUSE was pleased to host its [2nd international conference](#) in the European Green Capital of 2018, Nijmegen. The event welcomed over 80 valued participants from twenty countries. Among others, the conference enabled in-depth discussions on the measurement of re-use activities and the new Waste Framework Directive transposition. It encouraged public, private and social enterprises to collaborate closely on making re-use a convenient choice for consumers.

Diving deep into the circular and social economy, members including Insieme, BKN, Envie and Kierrätyskeskus shared insightful experiences on the importance of green and social values along with best practices on making donations. With wisdom amongst members in the room, there were exchanges on the definition of social enterprises and how to best encourage and lead more circular lifestyles.

In addition, a variety of speakers outside the RREUSE NETWORK contributed to the debates including leading academics such as Tim Cooper and representatives from the European Commission, including Ann Branch

(DG EMPL), Ruben Dekker (DG ENV) and Cillian Lohan (EESC). The event was a unique opportunity to engage on how support for the role of social enterprise in the circular economy can be achieved in practice. Among a host of engaging interventions, Tchibo presented its strategy to extend lifetime of textiles, inspiring customers to donate unwanted clothes to social enterprises federated under the German label Fairwertung.

During two site visits, participants experienced how the local waste management facility of Dar NV cooperates with social enterprise Het Goed on collecting re-usable goods. Partnerships like these allow items to be re-used rather than prematurely recycled or incinerated.



→ Check out the video for more information

Re-use More, Throw Less Campaign

From 17-24th November 2018, 38 re-use centres in Croatia, Italy, Netherlands and Spain participated in RREUSE's annual **'Re-use More Throw Less'** campaign, part of the European Week for Waste Reduction. Every day, each re-use centre weighed, collected and sold items in their second-hand shops. The added weights showcased the collective impact on waste reduction and second-hand sales.

The campaign focused on raising awareness about re-use, repair and positive consumer habits to ensure waste prevention and resource efficiency. It also highlighted the often-overlooked social impact of re-use and repair activities such as providing jobs and training opportunities for people at risk of social exclusion.

Videos

Re-use in practice: Stories from the Netherlands

The video details the social enterprise Het Goed's re-use centre and its wide range of activities that are environmentally friendly as well as socially and economically beneficial for customers and long-term unemployed persons.



Newsletter

Our public newsletter is published periodically to inform readers about major policy developments and best practices from the RREUSE network. If you would like to receive concise and neatly packaged information about what's new in re-use, visit our website and [sign-up](#).

→ www.rreuse.org

Let's keep in touch!



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More information on

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MEMBERS



AUSTRIA
REPANET



BELGIUM
KOMOSIE
RESSOURCES



BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA
ASSOCIATION CITIZENS
"HANDS"



CROATIA
HUMANA NOVA



ESTONIA
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BRANCHEVERENIGING
KRINGLOOPBEDRIJVEN NEDERLAND



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AERESS



SWEDEN
MACKEN



UNITED KINGDOM
REUSEFUL UK
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
NETWORK SCOTLAND



USA
DONATENYC



PAN-EUROPEAN NETWORKS
EMMAÜS EUROPE

2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE EUR

Consultants	41 249,61
Office costs	37 825,07
Travel-Subsistence	24 345,90
Conference-seminars	4 131,91
Staff	168 664,02
Depreciation	964,34
Interests/Bank charges	753,66
Total	277 934,51
Exceptional charges	8 790,58
TOTAL Expenditure	286 725,09

INCOME EUR

Conference Fees	6 195,33
Membership fees	58 250,00
European Commission	217 837,29
Other private contributions	8 000,00
Other income	6 290,00
Total	296 572,62
Exceptional income	44,44
TOTAL Income	296 617,06

End of year result 2018 **9 891,97**



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RREUSE is a member of ECOS

RREUSE is a member of:

[European Commission's Expert Group on Social Economy and Social Enterprises](#)

[European Commission's Ecodesign and Energy labelling Consultation Forum \(observer\)](#)

[European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials High-Level Steering Group](#)

[European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform Coordination Group](#)

[European Commission's Expert Group on Textile Names and Labelling](#)

You can view our entry on the European Commission Transparency Register.

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FIRST



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