

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019



rrreuse 



..... ABOUT RREUSE

RREUSE is an international non-profit network representing social enterprises active in the field of re-use, repair and recycling. In 2019, RREUSE federated 27 members across 25 European countries and the USA.

RREUSE's mission is to ensure that policies, innovative partnerships and exchange of best practices promote and develop the role of social enterprise in the circular economy.

RREUSE members' activities include:

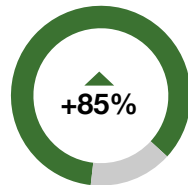
- Advocacy at local, regional and national levels and sharing of best circular practices
- Awareness raising campaigns, local and international projects and business support
- Collection, sorting and redistribution of used textiles and clothing
- Collection, repair and re-use of electronics, furniture and bulky items
- Re-use of other household items such as bric-a-brac, books, toys and paint
- Operating second-hand retail outlets
- Collection and recycling of paper, cardboard, wood, plastics and metals
- Home, community and cooperative composting
- Food distribution services and management of food banks

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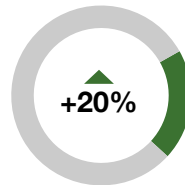
2019 IN NUMBERS

30	5	35	10
Speaking engagements	Involvements in European Commission Expert Groups and Platforms	Thematic webinars, working groups and internal meetings	International events organised
16	15	16	11
Original news items shared	Media outlets mentioning RREUSE	Engagements in EU policy files	Position papers, reports and reactions to Commission consultations

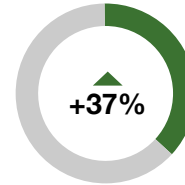
SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



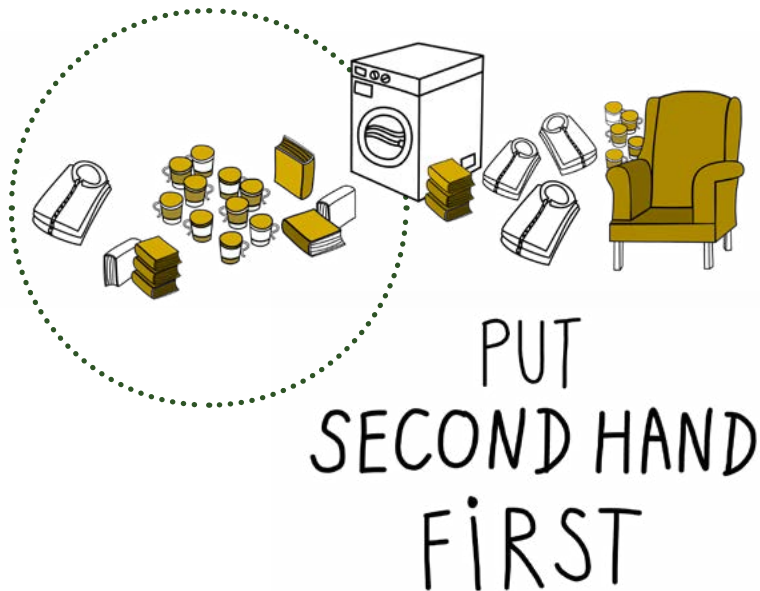
LinkedIn



Twitter



Facebook



..... EU ADVOCACY 2019

In 2019, a new European Parliament was elected and a new European Commission was formed, headed by President Ursula Von der Leyen. The Commission published its initial roadmap of the key policies and measures to be elaborated in the European Green Deal, including the development of a new Circular Economy Action Plan by March 2020. In addition, the Commission appointed a new College of Commissioners, including Nicolas Schmit as EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights. Amongst other priorities, Schmit is entrusted to develop a Social Economy Action Plan by mid 2021.

In light of these political changes containing green and social initiatives at heart, RREUSE and its members kept the momentum going by pushing EU institutions to adopt a circular and social policy framework in order to:

- Support the role of social enterprises in the circular economy
- Boost the re-use of unwanted goods
- Ensure repair is made easier and cheaper

RREUSE engaged in the following policy files and European Commission policy initiatives aiming to create a stronger supporting legal framework for circular activities fostering social value:

Environmental and Circular Policies



European
Green Deal



Waste Framework
Directive



Ecodesign
Directive and
Regulations



Waste Electrical and Electronic
Equipment Directive (WEEE)

Economic Policies



VAT Directive



Public Procurement
Directive



Multi-Annual Financial
Framework, notably ESF+ and
Cohesion Funds

Social Policies



Social Economy
Action Plan



EU Pillar of Social
Rights



European Semester

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
- 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



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

Vision for a New Fashion Season

The ‘fast fashion’ phenomenon, overconsumption and insufficient regulation on circularity has led to increased volumes of low quality textiles, unfit for re-use let alone recycling. However, in 2019, the EU underlined textiles as a key sector to be tackled under the Green Deal.

With textiles aptly rising as a key priority under the new European Commission, this document outlines RREUSE’s vision on how to achieve a more inclusive and circular textile sector that prioritises re-use and emphasises the role of social enterprises in the value chain as part of the solution.

Highlighting the potential for resource efficiency and job creation, this vision includes key policy recommendations, available in four languages, to ensure a future social and circular textile sector.



10 Priorities to transform EU Waste Policy

With almost 90% of EU material resources lost after first use, more measures are needed to accelerate the transition to a circular economy respectful of the waste hierarchy. In light of the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan and its overarching Green Deal, RREUSE joined forces with the 'Prevent Waste Coalition' of environmental NGOs in publishing [10 key priorities related to waste prevention](#) and improved product design.

Right to Repair gains ground

The current economic system makes repairing electronics particularly hard. In 2017, the EU28 generated 10.5 million tonnes of e-waste, making it the fastest growing waste stream in Europe. After having advocated for legal provisions to support product repairability since 2013, RREUSE joined the [Right to Repair coalition](#) to keep pushing European policymakers to adopt ambitious legislation extending product lifetime.

Following the conclusion to the revision process of a number of Ecodesign regulations, from April 2021 onwards, manufacturers of products such as washing machines, TVs and dishwashers are to ensure access to repair manuals, provide key spare parts to professional repairers and design products that simplify disassembly for repair. This is a significant step in the right direction.





SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

Green and social public procurement

While public authorities in the EU could drive markets towards ethical and sustainable purchases, 55% of public procurement procedures still use the lowest price as the only criterion in purchase decisions, overlooking any added social or environmental value.

RREUSE published a series of case studies, involving social enterprises within its network, wherein public calls for tender successfully integrated and valued social considerations. The publication contributes to the sharing of good practices on how municipalities can support local job creation and the transition towards a circular economy through recognising social value.

The future of the ESF+

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) invests in Europe's human capital by ensuring fair job opportunities for all EU citizens. In 2019, RREUSE responded to a consultation evaluating the ESF's effectiveness in promoting social inclusion, combatting poverty and discrimination.

With extensive experience in supporting lifelong learning, vocational education and training, RREUSE members highlighted the need for integrated investments, stronger cooperation between local authorities and better mainstreaming of circular activities into EU funding.

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Under the EU's Interreg Europe programme, RREUSE joined two new project consortia aimed at boosting re-use both from a policy and practical perspective.



2LIFES promotes the development of public policies, programmes, infrastructures and channels supporting re-use practices. The project raises awareness on the need for businesses, households and administrations to change consumption patterns, insisting on the environmental, social and solidarity benefits of re-use.



SUBTRACT finds ways for re-use centres to become economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. The project provides policymakers with indications on how to enhance economic sustainability and competitiveness of re-use centres, improve traceability and access to the waste streams.

In 2019, RREUSE continued its involvement in three other EU projects:

ReWeee

ReWEEE (Life+)



BioHec (Life+)



SURFACE
(Interreg Central Europe)

MEMBERS



AUSTRIA
RepaNet



BELGIUM
• HERWIN
(formerly KOMOSIE)
• RESSOURCES



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Association
Citizens "Hands"



CROATIA
Humana
Nova



ESTONIA
Uuskasutuskeskus



FINLAND
• Tramel
• Kierrätyskeskus Oy



FRANCE
• Emmaüs France
• Envie



GREECE
• Ecological
Recycling
Society
• Klimax Plus



HUNGARY
Humusz
Szövetség



IRELAND
• Community
Resources
Network Ireland
• RECOSI
• Rehab Recycle



ITALY
• Associazione
Orius
• Cooperativa
Sociale Insieme



NETHERLANDS
Branchevereniging
Kringloopbedrijven
Nederland



POLAND
EKON



SLOVENIA
Dobrote
z.b.o



SPAIN
AERESS



SWEDEN
Macken



UNITED KINGDOM
• Reuseful UK
Community
• Resources Network
Scotland



USA
donateNYC



PAN-EUROPEAN NETWORKS
Emmaüs Europe

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

2019 was a festive year with eight RREUSE members celebrating major milestones. For many years, social enterprises part of the RREUSE network have been essential social and environmental actors. They contribute to a sense of local community and identity by providing volunteer, training and employment opportunities to people at risk of socio-economic exclusion, all the while benefiting the environment through re-use, repair and recycling.





Rec'Up Label Gains Ground

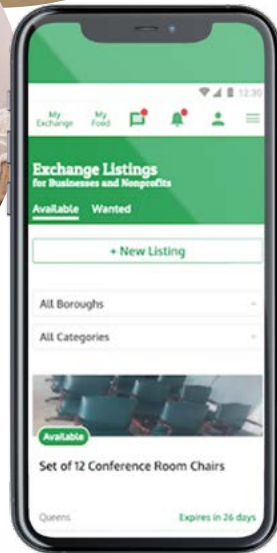
The “Rec'Up” label set up by RESSOURCES, the Belgian network of social and circular enterprises, reached a 10-year milestone in 2019. The label consists of 120 criteria guaranteeing transparency, fair pricing and high quality products to raise the profile of re-use practices and meet the needs of customers shopping second-hand. In just 10 years, the amount of social economy enterprises bearing the Rec'Up label in Wallonia and Brussels quadrupled to include 44 sorting centres, re-use/repair workshops and second-hand shops.

DonateNYC Launches a New App

DonateNYC, a social enterprise network organisation backed by the New York City Department of Sanitation, launched an online application to facilitate re-use and reduce waste. Through a searchable NYC map covering over 1,000 locations, the app connects businesses, nonprofits and citizens in their quest to find or donate hundreds of second-hand items such as furniture, toys and textiles. The app also includes a food portal allowing organisations to avoid food waste by redistributing food to those in need.

Green and Social Office Space

CRNI, the Irish network for community-based re-use, recycling and waste prevention entities, led Ireland's first green and social consortium in a public procurement project with the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCP). The project involved fitting out 16 work stations, two meeting rooms, a canteen and chill out room, a lobby and an outdoor seating area with 100% re-used and upcycled furniture. The main suppliers of the 97 second-hand items were CRNI social enterprise members, helping to save over 2.5 tonnes of CO2.



COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS

In 2019, RREUSE organised 10 events and workshops at national and international level, resulting in significant outreach.

RREUSE's 3rd International Conference

In November, RREUSE organised its 3rd International Conference focusing on the role of social and solidarity enterprises in the circular economy, in Pamplona. The conference was co-organised by AERESS and Traperos de Emaús Navarra and welcomed over 140 participants from 17 different countries. Along with RREUSE members, the conference attendees included a diverse audience ranging from Emmaüs International, International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the European Commission to the New York City Department of Sanitation and the Spanish ministries of environment and employment.

Have a look at our [video](#) for more information (available in English and Spanish).





World Resources Forum

In February, RREUSE and its member KOMOSIE (now HERWIN), hosted a workshop at the World Resources Forum in Antwerp. Engaging a wide range of participants including local authorities and academics, the workshop focused on the importance of setting binding targets to increase re-use and prevent waste, ultimately accelerating the transition to an inclusive circular economy.

EU Officials Visit Re-use Centre

In June, RREUSE organised a site visit to a major Belgian textiles sorting facility owned by social enterprise 'Les Petits Riens'. Though approaching the end of their mandate, about 20 officials from the EU Commission (DG EMPL, DG ENV, DG GROW and the European Economic and Social Committee) left their desks to engage in a first-hand experience with this advanced re-use centre. Attendees gathered valuable insight into the main steps of a re-use centre such as pre-sorting, sorting, reallocating and selling of donated items.



ILO Social and Solidarity Academy

In October, the International Labour Organisation invited RREUSE to speak at its 11th Social and Solidarity Economy Academy (SSE) in Madrid. The theme for the bi-annual academy, 'The Social Economy in the Future of Work' attracted over 200 participants. RREUSE explored how local municipalities can better promote the circular economy to further support social economy actors. RREUSE's member, AERESS, also presented as part of the panel 'Innovative models of production and consumption: Circular Economy, new consumption habits and their social and environmental impact'.

Re-use More Throw Less

In November, 60 re-use centres from Croatia, Italy and Spain participated in RREUSE's annual Re-use More Throw Less campaign, part of the European Week for Waste Reduction. Every day for a week, each re-use centre weighed, collected and sold items in their second-hand shops.





BOARD AND SECRETARIAT

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A very special thanks to secretariat staff members who left us
in 2019:

Nina Monjean **Policy Officer – Social Affairs**
Dasa Koribanicova **Communication and Policy Assistant**




FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

EXPENDITURE

Consultants	Office costs	Travel-Subsistence	Conference-seminars	Staff	Depreciation	Interests/ Bank charges	TOTAL
€ 12.693	€ 38.632	€ 37.453	€ 17.262	€ 217.358	€ 1.147	€ 441	€ 324.986
						Exceptional charges	€ 3.927
						TOTAL EXPENDITURE	€ 328.913

INCOME

Conference Fees	Membership fees	European Commission Operating Grant	European Commission projects	Other private contributions	Other income	TOTAL
€ 7.831	€ 59.692	€ 225.904	€ 32.833	€ 9.550	€ 1.500	€ 337.310
					Exceptional income	€ 259
					TOTAL INCOME	€ 337.569
				END OF YEAR RESULT 2019		€ 8.656

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RREUSE is a member of ECOS and the Social Platform.



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You can view our entry on the European Commission Transparency Register: 05052317999-60.

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LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

www.rreuse.org



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RREUSE_Brussels



RREUSE



RREUSE



SIGN UP

to our newsletter for concise and neatly
packaged information on what's new in
the world of re-use!



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