



BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

RREUSE

International Network for
Advancement of Circular Economy

JULY 2024



Co-funded by
the European Union

RREUSE

– International Network for Advancement of Circular Economy

Context and Initiative Details

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| Name of the initiative | <u>RREUSE</u> - The international network for social enterprises active in the circular economy notably in the fields of re-use, repair and recycling. |
| Geographical scope | 31 countries in Europe, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange on a continental scale. |
| Sources of funding | Funding primarily comes from member contributions within the network, supplemented by potential grants from European institutions supporting circular economy initiatives. |
| Duration of the initiative | RREUSE's efforts are ongoing, reflecting a sustained commitment to advancing social and environmental objectives within the circular economy. |
| Target audience | The initiative targets social enterprises, policymakers, stakeholders, and practitioners engaged in re-use, repair, and recycling activities, promoting inclusivity and partnership especially with lifelong learning institutions and adult education centers. The work of the RREUSE members The RREUSE members employ people at risk of socio-economic exclusion and help bring them back into the labour market. In addition, they bring products back to the market at affordable prices, providing essential household items to low-income groups. |
| Social justice focus area | RREUSE's core focus lies in promoting economic inclusion through social enterprise activities and advancing environmental sustainability through circular economy practices. They also work closely in advancing SDGs 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13. |
| Goals of the initiative | Advocacy and Practitioners support. |

Good Practices Description

Stakeholder engagement in the process

The initiative excels in engaging with members to gather impactful data, advocating for policy changes at EU level, collaborating with other associations for collective lobbying efforts, and facilitating valuable exchange of contacts and best practices among social enterprises.

Methodology used (if available)

RREUSE employs a multifaceted methodology that leverages the expertise and collaboration of its members to drive impactful change in the circular economy sector:

Representing, Promoting, and Communicating: The initiative actively represents and communicates about social enterprises engaged in re-use, repair, and recycling to relevant European and international stakeholders. This involves advocating for increased visibility and recognition of the sector's contributions to sustainable development.

Advocating for Policy Frameworks: RREUSE advocates for a stronger policy framework at the EU level, particularly within the EU Circular Economy Action Plan and Social Economy Action Plan. This advocacy aims to influence policy decisions that support and promote social enterprise activities in environmental services.

Forming Alliances and Collaborations: RREUSE forms alliances with other EU associations to collectively lobby and share intelligence effectively. This collaborative approach strengthens advocacy efforts and enhances the impact of policy recommendations.

Facilitating Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices: The initiative facilitates the exchange of contacts, best practice examples, and updates on local, national, and legal developments among social enterprises. This is achieved through dedicated member sessions, tailored communication channels, and networking events aimed at fostering continuous learning and improvement.

Data Gathering and Analysis: RREUSE gathers unique data on the re-use and repair sector from its members. This data is used to produce value-added analyses that showcase the sector's impact, informing evidence-based advocacy and policy discussions.

Partnerships in International Projects: RREUSE actively partners in international projects focused on further developing the re-use, repair, and recycling sector. These partnerships involve collaboration with universities, local authorities, and research centers to address environmental and social challenges through innovative solutions and knowledge sharing.

Teaching approaches (if available)

The initiative embraces capacity building through workshops, webinars, and conferences, fostering continuous learning and dissemination of best practices among its network of social enterprises and stakeholders.

Challenges and outcomes

Key factors contributing to success

Strong member engagement, effective advocacy and networking strategies, and robust data collection and analysis are pivotal factors contributing to RREUSE's success in advancing its mission.

Encountered difficulties and challenges

RREUSE has encountered challenges such as policy complexity and balancing diverse member interests and needs, requiring strategic approaches to overcome obstacles and achieve collective goals.

Recommendations

Macro Level (Policy Advocacy): Advocate for streamlined EU policy frameworks to support social enterprise activities in re-use, repair, and recycling, influencing systemic changes at the EU policy level to promote inclusive and sustainable circular economy practices.

Meso Level (Collaborative Networks): Foster collaborative networks and knowledge-sharing platforms among social enterprises and associations, facilitating effective partnerships and collective actions to drive innovation and best practices within the circular economy sector.

Micro Level (Capacity Building): Implement tailored capacity-building programs and continuous learning initiatives for employees, trainees, and volunteers within member organizations, empowering individuals with skills and resources to thrive in the evolving circular economy landscape.

Impact

RREUSE seeks to represent and advocate for social enterprises in re-use, repair, and recycling sectors, influence EU policy frameworks supporting circular economy activities, facilitate knowledge exchange, and participate in international projects for sector development.

RREUSE additionally aims to foster lifelong learning within the social enterprise community by facilitating continuous capacity building, knowledge-sharing, and skill development among members and stakeholders involved in re-use, repair, and recycling sectors. This emphasis on ongoing learning supports professional growth, innovation, and adaptation to evolving challenges within the circular economy landscape.

Working with 26 different material streams, their sector of activity ranges widely from textiles, furniture, and electronics to food distribution and composting.