

Transnational Stakeholder Policy Statement

An initiative to support Repair & Re-use Centres and Networks in Central Europe

The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme.

The Central Europe Project CERREC fosters the implementation of repair- and re-use centres and networks according to WFD 2008/98/EC where “preparing for re-use” is introduced and measures (implementation of re-use networks) are recommended.

The main aim is prolonging the product life time through re-use, and subsequently saving resources and improving energy efficiency.

Re-use refers to all three dimensions of sustainable development:

- **Ecological sustainability** – Improving resource efficiency by reducing wastes and emissions by extending the lifetime of products.
- **Social sustainability** – Creation of “green jobs” for low qualified / long-time unemployed people as well as providing good quality products for people with low income.
- **Economic sustainability** – Strengthening regional economies by stimulating co-operations between different actors and development of new business fields (especially for social enterprises, SMEs and service providers).

Our approach for a proper use of products contributes to a **more sustainable lifestyle** by “mainstreaming” re-use as an alternative way of fulfilling customer needs. In this broad context re-use not only refers to waste management legislation but also has **interfaces to a number of strategies, policies and concepts** in the area of sustainable development (e.g. Europe 2020 strategy¹, Sustainable consumption and production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan², European Strategy on Sustainable Development³, etc.).

Being aware of these mutual interrelationships is crucial for supporting the successful implementation of re-use into practice. This can be done by **cooperating** with familiar initiatives, **forming coalitions, using synergies** and by that **gaining a higher impact to policy decision makers**.

¹ EUROPE 2020, A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Brussels, 3.3.2010

² COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan, Brussels, 16.7.2008

³ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies:2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development, Brussels, 24.7.2009

OUR MISSION

We – the CERREC project partners and External Advisory Board members – aim to create new and attractive re-use offers for citizens: avoiding used products to be waste by bringing them to special collection points. If fulfilling requirements the products will be **prepared for re-use** and **sold in re-use shops** at high quality standards.

To reach our goal:

We **foster the exchange of know-how** between countries and regions to be as efficient as possible with available resources.

We **build up modular solutions** for re-use centres and networks to fulfil the needs of all CE countries by easy adaption.

We **define an accreditation system** and will supply quality standards in order to fulfil all the concerned regulations and equalise the playing field for all stakeholders.

We **develop action plans** for implementing re-use activities in CE countries.

We **implement pilots** for testing the developed solutions in several CE countries.

CALL FOR SUPPORT

We **invite all concerned stakeholders and experts to participate** in the process of finding the best adapted solutions for creation of re-use centres and networks.

We **appeal the local and regional policy makers to foster the installation** of re-use centres and networks.

We **call for communication** and **raise the public awareness** to move towards a more sustainable life-style in Europe.

We ask the **policy makers** to

- **integrate re-use obligations** into national / regional waste laws, waste management plans and concepts, especially into the national waste prevention programs;
- **oblige WEEE collection systems to collect re-usable WEEE separately** from WEEE-scrap and cooperate with re-use networks and centres;
- **foster waste owners / waste producers** (e.g. companies) to collect re-usable items separately and **hand it over to re-use centres**;
- **foster education** about re-use, re-use centres and collection points for the public audience;
- **foster the sale of re-used goods** by re-use-friendly trade regulations.

We ask the **municipalities** to

- **establish collection points** for re-usable goods;
- **re-organise bulky waste collection** systems to separate re-usable goods;
- **establish co-operation** between repair enterprises, social enterprises, social co-operatives and municipalities to foster re-use activities.

With the implementation of repair and re-use centres and networks we will **contribute to** a more **sustainable life-style** by extending use in the product lifetime and reducing resource needs. We will also **support job creation** even for low qualified or long time unemployed people.