

RREUSE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2030 AGENDA

This briefing outlines the contribution of social enterprises active in the circular economy to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). It will explicitly address their contribution to each SDG relevant to RREUSE's members activities, in line with the specific targets adopted by the UN to measure progress.

The aim is to highlight social enterprises' essential role in the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, informing policymakers and potential partners about the many ways in which social enterprises active in the circular economy can contribute to the most pressing challenges of our time.

GOAL 1 – NO POVERTY

- Employing vulnerable people and thereby, ensuring equal rights to economic resources (in line with Target 1.4.).
- Re-skilling and up-skilling opportunities through work integration, vital in preventing poverty in the long term (Target 1.4.).
- Donating essential household goods at low prices to vulnerable individuals and low-income families (in line with Target 1.4.).
- Promoting a sound policy framework that facilitates social enterprises' activities and enables the inclusion of people distanced from the labour market (Target 1.b.).

GOAL 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Employing vulnerable groups such as former drug addicts (Target 3.5.) or disabled people, thus improving access the labour market and increasing well-being.
- Preventing emissions linked to the extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, and landfilling and incineration practices, ultimately preventing death and illnesses caused by hazardous chemicals and pollution (Target 3.9.).

GOAL 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

- Providing high-quality and affordable vocational training to all kinds of vulnerable groups, promoting equal access and social inclusion (Targets 4.3., 4.4. and 4.a.).
- Offering affordable or free second-hand ICT products and school supplies to ensure equal access to primary and secondary education (Target 4.1.).
- Engaging in many awareness-raising campaigns in the circular economy, promoting sustainable development (Target 4.7.).



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GOAL 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

- Engaging in gender-sensitive approaches to achieve greater equality (Target 5.5. and 5.a.), including exploring how to further advance gender equality striving to make the re-use, repair, and recycling sector a better place for women, promoting equal opportunities, a good work environment and ensuring balanced representation.

GOAL 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Generating many job opportunities, creating on average 70 jobs per 1,000 tonnes of material collected with a view of being re-used (Target 8.3.).
- Putting used items back into circulation whilst creating job opportunities, and thereby providing a notable contribution to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation (Target 8.4.) and to sustainable growth (Target 8.1.).
- Aiming to provide fair opportunities to vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, young people not in employment, education or training, migrants, long-term unemployed, and more (Targets 8.5., 8.6. and 8.8.).
- Helping create an enabling policy ecosystem for these activities by promoting policies that support productive activities, job creation and innovation (Target 8.3.).

GOAL 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Helping promote inclusive and circular industrialisation thanks to social enterprise operations and partnerships with industrial companies (Target 9.2.).

GOAL 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITIES

- Aiming to provide fair opportunities to persons at risk of social exclusion irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or another status (Target 10.2.), thus helping reduce inequalities of outcomes (Target 10.3.).
- Supporting the adoption of an enabling policy ecosystem for the social economy, especially policies that help achieve greater equality (Target 10.4.).

GOAL 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Diverting waste from landfills and incineration by increasing re-use, repair and recycling rates of municipal waste, hence reducing the environmental impact of cities (Target 11.6.).

GOAL 12 – RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- Prevention and preparation for re-use activities to substantially reduce waste generation (Target 12.5.) and adequate waste management when not possible (Target 12.4.).

- Halting further extraction of raw materials by advancing the circular economy, therefore promoting the sustainable management of natural resources (Target 12.2.).
- Preventing food waste at the production, retail and consumers levels by redistributing food surpluses to vulnerable groups (Target 12.3.).
- Promoting sustainable public procurement practices by championing social and circular public procurements (Target 12.7.).
- Participating in several umbrella organisations and awareness-raising campaigns to help ensure that citizens are aware of sustainable development and lifestyles (Target 12.8.).

GOAL 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

- Re-using, repairing, and recycling practices contribute to low-carbon development alternatives, countering the linear model of production (Target 13.2.).
- Pursuing the goal of helping the most vulnerable, and therefore playing a crucial role in strengthening resilience to climate-related hazards (Target 13.1.).

GOAL 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- Promoting the dissemination of social and circular practices throughout Europe (Target 17.7.) and enhancing policy ecosystems to boost social enterprises and the circular economy (Target 17.14.).
- Collaborating and forging partnerships with other social economy actors, public authorities, and companies to share and mobilise resources and achieve a greater impact in line with the SDG's (Targets 17.6. and 17.17.).

CONCLUSIONS

The Sustainable Development Goals provide a framework to promote prosperity while protecting our environment. This briefing has shown our contribution to their accomplishment: social enterprises are crucial for advancing towards an inclusive and circular economy, given their activities to curb resource consumption whilst providing inclusive training and employment opportunities.

We are open to forging partnerships that can help speed up this transition: our experience has shown that partnerships can be helpful to scale-up social enterprises' activities, and are indeed needed to strengthen the means of implementation to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.