

# RE-USE TARGETS

## WHY THEY MATTER AND WHAT INITIATIVES ALREADY EXIST IN THE EU

Re-use and preparation for re-use targets are essential to implement the principles of the waste hierarchy and promote job creation. The current practice of combining preparing for re-use and recycling targets undermines the waste hierarchy, as countries without separate re-use or preparing for re-use objectives usually favour recycling. Instead, quantitative targets would stimulate the cooperation of municipalities, collection schemes, retailers, and other actors with preparing for re-use operators, which is necessary for accessing the waste stream and sourcing re-usable items. Therefore, separate re-use and preparation for re-use targets are necessary to prevent premature recycling whilst creating job opportunities for vulnerable individuals.

### Currently implemented targets



**Flanders (Belgium).** Re-use target of 7kg per capita and year by 2022

- **Scope:** Non-waste.
- **Type of indicator:** kg per capita and year.
- **Categories of products covered:** All goods being processed through a re-use centre.
- **Point of measurement:** The product has gone through the re-use/preparing for re-use process and has been sold as a second-hand good.
- **Responsible for data collection:** Re-use centres can conclude agreements individually with OVAM and receive subsidies in exchange for, among others, reporting annually on their activities.
- **Results or expected results:** Make re-use centres from the social economy actively participate in waste prevention and management, increase the professionalisation of the re-use sector, create jobs for people at risk of socio-economic exclusion, improve re-use rates, achieve waste prevention objectives and, finally, make everyday goods accessible to low income households.



**Spain.** With effect from 15 August 2018, producers must achieve: (a) for large equipment (50+ cm), a minimum preparation for re-use target of 3%; (b) for small IT and telecommunication equipment, a minimum preparation for re-use target of 4%. There is also a target to prepare for re-use 2% of waste deriving mainly from textiles, WEEE, furniture and other waste streams.

- **Scope:** Waste.
- **Type of indicator:** Percentage of waste prepared for re-use within that product category (waste prepared for re-use / collection of waste in that fraction).
- **Categories of products covered:** WEEE (large equipment measuring more than 50 cm and small ICT equipment), and several products (textiles, WEEE, furniture and other waste streams) for the general target.
- **Point of measurement:** The product has gone through the re-use/preparing for re-use process and is ready to be sold on the market.
- **Responsible for data collection:** The Ministry of the Environment is supposed to be in charge of monitoring the achievement of the targets by the producers who are, via their Producer Responsibility Organisations for WEEE, responsible for the achievement of these targets. An electronic platform has been created to harmonise the collection of data from preparing for re-use operators. However, this platform is not yet used by all the concerned operators.
- **Results or expected results:** Make all the actors of the preparing for re-use value chain (Producer Responsibility organisations, Local Authorities and preparing for re-use operators) cooperate and improve the re-use rates of several types of products. The objective was also to create green jobs, notably because of the pre-eminence of the social economy in that sector.



**Wallonia (Belgium).** 2% of WEEE to be prepared for re-use from January 2020, covering six categories of WEEE

- **Scope:** Waste.
- **Type of indicator:** Percentage of waste prepared for re-use within that product category (waste prepared for re-use / collection of waste in that fraction).
- **Categories of products covered:** WEEE (six categories of appliances, making it wider in scope than the Spanish target).
- **Point of measurement:** The product has gone through the re-use/preparing for re-use process and is ready to be sold on the market. However, both input (WEEE entering the preparation for re-use centre) and output (EEE prepared for re-use being sold) will be measured as well.
- **Responsible for data collection:** Producers (through EPR schemes), collectors, and preparation for re-use centres.
- **Results or expected results:** The goal is to prevent waste whilst making producers responsible for that task.



**France.** By 2030, the weight of re-used and prepared for re-use products (including textiles, furniture and Electric and Electronic Equipment) must equal at least 5% of the weight of municipal waste. This is transposed into specific re-use targets for each category of product covered.

- **Scope:** Waste and non-waste.
- **Type of indicator:** Percentage of weight of municipal waste.
- **Categories of products covered:** Textiles, furniture, (W)EEE, sport and outdoor equipment, toys, tools and gardening equipment.
- **Point of measurement:** What is sold / donated.
- **Responsible for data collection:** Each Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) is responsible for data collection and must set actions that will help reach objectives. A Social Re-use Fund will be created - for which all beneficiaries will have to report on their activities.
- **Results or expected results:** The aim is to ensure circularity, proper waste management, waste prevention, extend the useful life of products, and provide social inclusion through employment.



**Wallonia (Belgium).** Re-use target of 8kg per capita and year by 2025 (non-binding).

- **Scope:** Non-waste.
- **Type of indicator:** kg per capita and year.
- **Categories of products covered:** All goods being processed through a re-use centre.
- **Point of measurement:** The product has gone through the re-use/preparing for re-use process and has been sold as a second-hand good.
- **Responsible for data collection:** Social economy operators from the RESSOURCES network.
- **Results or expected results:** The aim is to promote longer product lifespans, make re-use more attractive, and reduce pressure on natural resources.

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National and regional governments are taking their own initiative and putting strong re-use and preparation for re-use targets. Such initiatives demonstrate that re-use is measurable, that targets are feasible, and that structural support for re-use is possible and must be further promoted. Hence, the Commission should take into consideration these targets when assessing the feasibility of developing re-use targets at EU level by 2025, a requirement in the Waste Framework Directive.