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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, MATTHIAS NEITSCH



Fortunately, the worst of the pandemic lies behind us, having shown us that societal resilience is not possible without a well-functioning social economy. This is not only the case in times of restricted social interaction. It is also the case in the upcoming times of transforming our economic system into a climate neutral and circular "value retention economy".

The social economy plays an essential role in making this a truly just transition, leaving no one behind.

Our members mitigate the social crisis that is to be expected during the transformation from linear to circular industries. They do so by accompanying and supporting the most vulnerable groups on the labour market during

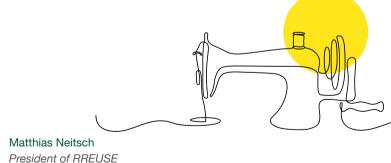


transition times, and helping them to get new chances in circular jobs such as refurbishing, remanufacturing, redistributing, repairing, logistics, and digitalisation.

Especially re-skilling in the low-skill sector is often forgotten in the debates around "green skills". However, this is exactly what vulnerable groups need and what social enterprises provide to reduce long-term unemployment and social deprivation.

Another important role of social economy is to provide an economic buffer for market failures in the re-use and repair sector: Through synergies between labour market funding policies and delivering donated used goods to a broader market it is possible to make re-used goods more competitive against cheap new goods produced under unsustainable conditions overseas. All in all, re-use is the supreme discipline of the circular economy, and the social economy carries a significant part of European re-use performance.

There can be no just transition and no circular economy without a strong social economy.





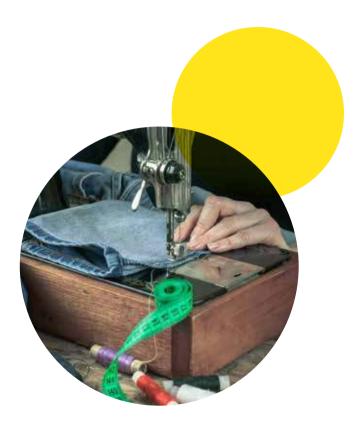
ABOUT RREUSE

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WHAT WE STAND FOR

RREUSE is a European network established in 2001 that brings together social enterprises active in the circular economy, notably in the fields of re-use, repair and recycling.

Our mission is to serve and represent the social and circular enterprise community, helping drive their development through positive change to European policy, best-practice sharing, partnerships and projects. Our vision is an inclusive circular economy based on reuse and repair in solidarity with both people and the environment.





WHAT WE DO

The RREUSE secretariat, based in Brussels, coordinates the network and cooperates with members in doing the following: Facilitating the exchange of contacts, best practices and information on legal developments among social enterprises in the field of re-use, repair and recycling through dedicated member sessions and tailored communication channels.

Representing and promoting the sector of social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling. Gathering unique data on the re-use, repair and recycling sector from members and producing value-added analyses to showcase the impact of our sector. Forming alliances with other EU associations for joint lobbying efforts and intelligence sharing. **Taking part in international projects** aimed at further developing the re-use, repair, and recycling sector in cooperation with universities, local authorities and research centres on environmental as well as social issues.

Advocating for a stronger policy framework at the EU level to support social enterprise activities in environmental services including those linked to the EU Circular Economy Action Plan and the Social Economy Action Plan.



RREUSE MEMBERS and the wider social enterprise network engage in:



Advocating for an enabling environment at local, regional and national levels. The second secon

Sharing and promoting best social and circular practices.



retail outlets.

Collecting, sorting and redistributing 25 product and material streams, including textiles, electronics and furniture.

Making essential goods

accessible to individuals

of all income levels by

operating second-hand



Home, community and cooperative composting, food banks management and food distribution services.



Providing job, training and skills-development opportunities to individuals at risk of socio-economic exclusion.







2022 IN NUMBERS

RREUSE participated in 8 European networks, coalitions and expert groups:



ECOS

Social Platform

Social Good Accelerator

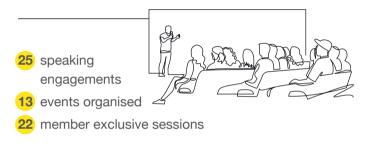
Right to Repair

Fair and Sustainable Textiles Coalition

European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform Coordination Group

European Commission's Expert Group on Social Economy and Social Enterprises

European Commission's Ecodesign and Energy labelling Consultation Forum **RREUSE** organised, or was directly involved in, 60 events:



RREUSE produced:

13 policy papers
6 research papers
21 news articles
14 responses to public consultations





RREUSE 36 membership



Publications with a European-wide audience or a national audience of various countries quoted RREUSE or shared parts of RREUSE's published work on their own platforms 15 times in 2022. In 2022, RREUSE welcomed **5 new members** to the network, **bringing the total to 36.**

60% on LinkedIn +1,940 followers 8% on Twitter +155 followers 8% on Facebook +100 followers



EU ADVOCACY

As Europe gravitates toward more sustainable and socially-oriented practices, RREUSE continues to be actively involved in decision-making processes shaping the future of the social economy and the circular economy.

2022 was a year of change, innovation, and growth for RREUSE, but we maintained our focus on creating synergies between the EU's social, environmental, and economic policy agenda.

With our network including more countries than ever before and a stronger presence in European policy circles, we were able to take a deep dive into multiple topics that are especially relevant for the social and circular enterprises sector.



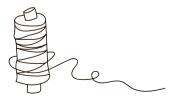


POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

TEXTILES

With the release of the European Commission's Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles in March, 2022 was a crucial year for the textiles and garments sector.

RREUSE'S Impact



RREUSE has been involved in shaping <u>the Strategy</u> for Sustainable and Circular Textiles, both as part of the Fair and Sustainable Textiles Coalition and as an individual organisation.

Following our concerted advocacy efforts, the strategy explicitly recognises the important role played by social enterprises in used textiles management and highlights RREUSE's job creation figures:

Boosting social enterprises active in the reuse sector is particularly important, as they have considerable potential to create local, green and inclusive businesses and jobs in the EU. On average, a social enterprise creates 20-35 jobs per 1,000 tonnes of collected textiles with a view re-use.

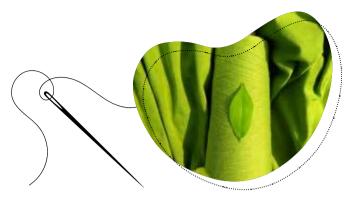


RREUSE intensified its work on re-use, repair, and preparation for re-use of textiles and was actively involved in EU policy influencing, including the following:

Supporting the development of the EU Textiles Strategy:

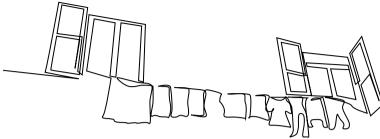
Along with 11 other organisations RREUSE highlighted the need for EU level action to change the textile industry and prevent the harmful consequences of the current processes. We also developed our own recommendations for the effective implementation of the European Commission's EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles. Key stakeholders – such as Members of European Parliament (MEPs) involved in the drafting of the Parliament's own initiative report on the EU textiles strategy – received <u>this position paper</u> that we followed up with direct engagement. The paper was also cited in specialised media outlets.





Involvement in the revision of the Waste Framework Directive through the textile angle:

The revision of the Waste Framework Directive, planned for 2023, will focus on two waste streams: food and textiles. This file is strategic for the sector we represent and we therefore closely followed its development. In 2022 RREUSE was involved in workshops dedicated to the textile aspect of the Directive's revision organised by the European Commission. Together with other civil society organisations we also initiated a meeting with the European Commission to discuss the introduction of harmonised rules for the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for textiles.



EU Horizon Europe innovation project on circular and sustainable textiles:

In a consortium of 27 partners, RREUSE launched a new Circular and Sustainable Textiles (CISUTAC) project that aims to support the transition to a circular and sustainable textile sector. RREUSE has a leading role on circular business models with a focus on re-use and repair.







RREUSE'S Impact

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC POLICY

We continued to advocate for a better consideration of the social enterprises' historical contribution to the circular economy and for more favourable financial frameworks in terms of public procurement, state aid, and VAT. Through written submissions, online workshops and inperson events RREUSE was actively engaged in the co-creation process of the Transition Pathway for the Proximity and Social Economy that is part of the EU Industrial Strategy. The collective work culminated in a policy paper published by the European Commission that recognises the large contribution of social economy enterprises to developing circular economy value chains. The policy paper also emphasises their considerable potential to contribute to the ambitions of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, for example in waste management. RREUSE's member ENVIE (France) is featured for its exemplary work on waste electrical and electronic equipment and fostering B2B collaborations. The policy paper also directly cites RREUSE's publication on the digital transition showcasing our members' outstanding contribution to inclusive access to technology.





Supporting the implementation of the EU Social Economy Action Plan:

RREUSE published <u>a position paper</u> on the Action Plan for the Social Economy (SEAP). We discussed our recommendations with European Commission and European Parliament representatives on multiple occasions. We also provided data on behalf of our membership to support evidence-based policymaking across different SEAP flagship initiatives.

EU policy files for better financial frameworks for social enterprises:

RREUSE published <u>a position paper</u> on the newlyrevised EU VAT Directive. We called for VAT rates that would incentivise the activities at the top of the EU Waste Hierarchy and directed at social inclusion. We also took part in the revision of important State Aid files, namely the De Minimis and SGEI De Minimis Regulations. Finally, we shared recommendations and data for a better implementation of the 2014 Public Procurement Directive.



Public Consultation for the 2023 European Year of Skills:

RREUSE partnered with other civil society organisations and social partners to promote adult learning for the green and digital transitions. We co-signed the <u>Declaration of</u> the Pact for Skills for the Proximity and Social Economy <u>Ecosystem</u>. We also contributed to the <u>call for evidence</u> launched by the European Commission after announcing 2023 as the European Year of Skills. There, RREUSE called for the fostering of inclusive upskilling and reskilling including through support for the circular training work promoted by our members.







ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The release of the <u>impact assessment</u> accompanying the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation in March 2022 was a particularly significant moment for our sector.

Requirements regarding product design play a major role in decreasing waste and scaling back the environmental impact of products throughout their life cycle. Improving product reparability and durability will have a positive impact on the re-use and repair community, making it easier and more affordable to extend the lifetime of products. It was rewarding to see our advocacy efforts were paying off and our message about the value of the RREUSE network's contributions to the social and circular economy gaining traction. Namely, the impact assessment directly referred to our (net)work:

(A)ccording to the non-profit network organisation RREUSE, social enterprises active in the circular economy provide 'green skills development and lifelong opportunities for vulnerable groups'. RREUSE estimated that a social enterprise can create 20 to 140 jobs per 1,000 tonnes, depending on the product that is collected with a view of being re-used (20-25 jobs for textile, 35-70 for multi household products, and 60-140 jobs for electronic and electrical equipment).





RREUSE, the international network representing social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling estimates that its members divert around 1 million tonnes of goods and materials every year from landfill and they extended the lifespan of 214 500 tonnes of products, leading to CO2 savings equivalent to average emissions of approximately 108 000 EU citizens.





214,500 tonnes of products with an extended lifespan



20 to 40 jobs per 1,000 tonnes



30-70 jobs for multihousehold products



108,000 EU CITIZENS equivalent CO² savings emissions



20 to 25 jobs textile



60-140 jobs for electronic and electrical equipment





Our advocacy for environmental policies that reflect the contribution of social enterprises active in reuse and repair to the green and just transition included feedback on several key policy files:

Sustainable Products Initiative:

In response to the European Commission' public consultation on the Sustainable Products Initiative RREUSE emphasised the importance of ensuring that products placed on the European market are designed with durability and circularity in mind. We argued for the scope of future measures to be extended beyond energy-using products, to encompass other categories such as textiles and furniture.

Evaluation of the Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) directive:

RREUSE <u>provided feedback</u> to the European Commission on the implementation of WEEE Directive, a key instrument in achieving the EU's ambitions regarding decarbonisation, digitalisation and strategic autonomy. We suggested for the future revision to focus on strengthening the implementation and ensuring a closer alignment with the waste hierarchy to achieve higher environmental, social and economic benefits.

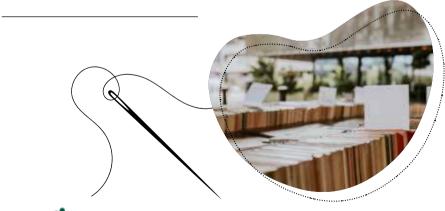
Besponse to the Public Consultation on the revision of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD):

The WFD lays down fundamental waste prevention and management principles based on the waste hierarchy with the aim of ensuring a high level of protection for the environment and human health. Through the <u>public consultation</u> and a joint paper with other NGOs, RREUSE advocated for more involvement of social enterprises in the development, governance and day-today functioning of the Extended Producer Responsibility schemes. We also called for clear end-of-waste criteria and quantitative targets to facilitate reuse activities.

RREUSE'S KEY PUBLICATIONS



A lot of the work RREUSE does to fulfil its mission and goals is reflected in the publications produced by its secretariat. Here are the top publications of 2022.







Research study on developing re-use networks in Europe:

RREUSE dove into the history, characteristics, risks, and enablers of different networks of social enterprises active in re-use in Europe. The Finnish member of the RREUSE Network <u>Kierrätyskeskus</u> commissioned the study in support of them becoming the leader of a new national re-use network.



Delivering a just transition to a circular economy:

RREUSE showcased how social enterprises contribute to an inclusive circular transition, focusing on job creation, reskilling, upskilling, and providing affordable essential goods for vulnerable individuals.



A just transition to reusable packaging:

We co-published the report about the necessary conditions, benefits and best practice in the transition to reusable packaging at the time of a legislative push for a major transformation of the packaging sector.



Can re-use save the planet? Yes – and we have the evidence:

We tried to close an important gap in conversations around the environmental impact of re-use and repair. They typically revolve around waste prevention whereas the role of the circular economy in saving energy, preventing the depletion of natural resources, and thus mitigating the climate emergency has been less visible.



EVENTS

On a number of occasions RREUSE

brought people together to discuss relevant topics, and we were able to complement online events with in-person meetings for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights include: At the top of the waste hierarchy but underfunded: Who should pay for re-use? In absence of concrete policy measures that prioritise re-use and preparing for re-use over recycling and incineration, we aimed to identify which entities are the most relevant to finance the infrastructure, the training, the new technologies, the collection and treatment services that are needed to make re-use the norm at the EU level. Over 100 participants attended the webinar.



PARTICIPANTS attended the webinar

+100

The digital era of social enterprises: Trends and opportunities within the circular economy.

Digitalisation was the central topic of RREUSE's 4th International Conference that took place in Vienna. Around 100 participants discussed opportunities for social enterprises to continue and advance their circular work while adopting digital solutions. The event was also a major opportunity for networking with NGO representatives, social enterprise leaders, policy makers, and private sector representatives.

INTERNATIONAL conference







RREUSE representatives were also invited to speak at major international events where we shared our experience and expertise with like-minded professionals from different parts of the world. For example:

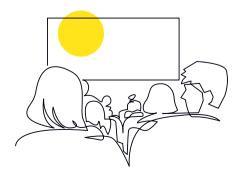
Charitable Recycling Australia National Conference in Sydney:

The event's purpose was to inspire participants and set a future agenda of transformation in re-use, in recycling and in retail. For RREUSE, it was an opportunity to connect with social enterprises from Australia, share our perspective on important matters for the sector and visit local social enterprises to learn more about the way they operate.



Symposium on Reuse in Toronto:

We contributed to the symposium aimed at mobilising stakeholders to share knowledge and ideas on how to advance reuse and value retention practices in Canada.





Enhancing policy makers' understanding of RREUSE members' reality and impact:

We took the opportunity of the return of in-person events to resume bringing European Union officials closer to social enterprises' day-to-day activities, concerns and impact.

In September we organised a visit to the sorting centre of Les Petits Riens and to the sorting centre and shop of KringWinkel ViTeS in the south of Brussels. We invited policy makers who work on topics directly affecting our sector. Twenty-four participants from three European Commission's Directorate-Generals engaged in conversations with employees who manage the sorting centres, observed a regular working day, and gained a deeper understanding of the value of the sector for the environment and for society. Their reactions to the visits we organised were overwhelmingly positive: "The site visit of RREUSE members I attended was more telling than 10 position papers. You get the opportunity to see how, in practice, the social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling manage to address both social exclusion and environmental challenges at the same time. It was also great to be able to ask all kinds of questions to the people working there and to the RREUSE members. The time investment is fully justified!" *Policy Officer, European Commission*

"Re-use centres provide a striking illustration of the massive challenge that is waste and overconsumption. It is also very inspirational to witness the great work accomplished by committed social enterprises, which channel innovative solutions and alternative business models to have a positive impact in favour of both a social and a circular economy."







PROJECTS

In 2022 RREUSE implemented three EU funded projects:

Subtract (Interreg Europe) 2LIFES (Interreg Europe) CISUTAC

The latter is our first Horizon Europe project. It is focused on the transition to a circular and sustainable textile sector which is highly relevant for RREUSE members. As part of a consortium of 27 project partners, RREUSE is leading the work on circular business models with a focus on reuse and repair.

THE RREUSE NETWORK

In 2022 we celebrated a series of network achievements. Some moments that deserve the spotlight are:

Launch of a unique site for the re-use of solar panels!

In September RREUSE's member ENVIE and Soren inaugurated a new site for the treatment of used solar panels in Saint-Loubès, France. This new centre is the first of its kind in Europe and is expected to highlight innovative re-use, refurbishing, and recycling activities related to a key product in the green transition.

Two years of the Innovation Forum!

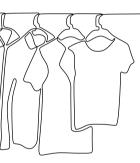
One of RREUSE's main priorities has always been to create a space where social enterprise leaders can meet, interact, share experience and good practices, and ultimately learn and support each other. The Innovation Forum is an initiative that aims to do just that. We launched it in 2020, as part of our response to the pandemic that made it impossible for RREUSE members from different countries to meet in person. In 2022 we organised five sessions with 105 participants in total who exchanged on a wide variety of topics within the sector.







WIDADO & Label Emmaus: a story of inspiration and collaboration!



The Innovation Forum has sparked numerous new initiatives and cross-border collaborations between RREUSE members. <u>RepaNet</u>, the Austrian network of social enterprises active in the circular economy, embarked on an impressive journey fuelled by the inspiration from the Innovation Forum. The story began after one of our invited speakers introduced Label Emmaus, a French online marketplace dedicated to revitalizing pre-owned goods. Intrigued and motivated, RepaNet swiftly forged a partnership with <u>Label Emmaus</u> that would shape the development of a new online platform in Austria. Through a series of personal visits and online meetings RepaNet absorbed valuable insights from Label Emmaus. They leveraged this knowledge to design and launch <u>WIDADO</u> – an online shop showcasing re-use goods from 26 social enterprises in Austria. November 2022 marked WIDADO's official debut that celebrates the potential of second-hand treasures and serves as a testament to RepaNet's unwavering commitment to sustainable innovation.





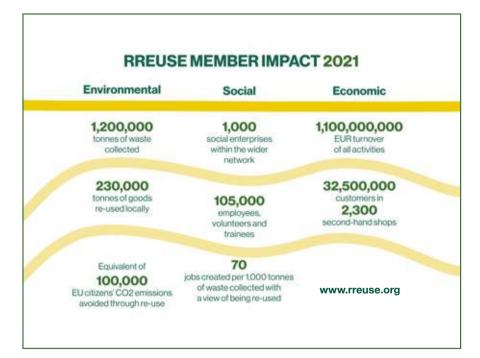


RREUSE NETWORK'S

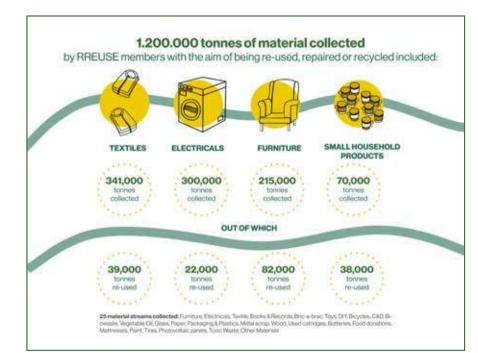
IMPACT

An important activity for RREUSE secretariat is demonstrating RREUSE network members' societal relevance and potential to contribute to the development of a truly circular economy.

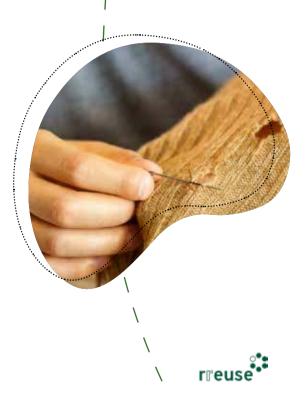
As we do every year, the RREUSE secretariat distributed a survey in the spring to collect quantitative data on members' environmental, social and economic impact in the previous year. Based on this survey we prepared the following infographics:













Effective & Associate Members



ISSD





Austria

• Herwin • Ressources



Bosnia and Herzegovina • Let's do it



Croatia • Humana Nova

HumanaNeva

Czech Republic • Re-use Federation CZ



Estonia • Uuskasutuskeskus



Finland

- Kierrätyskeskus
- Tramel



TRƏMEL





France • Emmaüs France

Envie





Supporting Member

France • Ethikis



Germany • Fairwertung

• WIR e.V.



Ireland

Recosi

Rediscovery Centre

REDISCOVERY

CENTRE

RehabRecycle

ECOSI

Rehab Recycle

CRNI

Greece

Ecorec
Klimax Plus





Italy
I

Insieme





Hungary

• Humusz









35

MEMBERS LIST

Effective & Associate Members





Slovenia • Zadruga Dobrote







Spain • AERESS



RomaniaAteliere fārā frontiere



United Kingdom • Circular Communities Scotland • Now! Charity





Serbia • Ekolozi bez granica



United States of America • Donate NYC









OUR NEW MEMBERS

In 2022, five new members joined the RREUSE network. We welcomed TESS GEIE, Rediscovery Centre, ISSD – Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development of Communities and Reuse Federation CZ as Associate members and Ethikis as our first-ever Supporting member.

TTTTESS

TESS GEIE is a European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG). The founding and driving values of TESS GEIE are: The primacy of people and labour over capital in the distribution of income, transparency, dialogue, solidarity, respect for the environment and international law. The vision of TESS GEIE is that the social and solidarity-based economy should be the major player in the recovery of all textiles, household linen, shoes and clothing accessories of household origin, used or unused.



The Rediscovery Centre is the National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ireland. A creative movement connecting people, ideas and resources to support greener low-carbon living. As the National Centre for the Circular Economy, we bring together the skills and expertise of artists, scientists, designers and craftspeople united in a common purpose of sustainability. Located in a bespoke demonstration eco-facility, we support four reuse social enterprises; Rediscover Furniture,



Rediscover Fashion, Rediscover Paint and Rediscover Cycling. The Rediscovery Centre is an accredited Discover Primary Science and Maths centre. Our education team offer interactive and experiential workshops for primary, secondary, and third level students which cover wide ranging environmental and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) topics. The Centre's translational research activities support national waste prevention and climate action policy and advocate for a more resilient and equitable society.



"ISSD" Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development of Communities", a non-governmental organization, founded in March 2017, breaks through stereotypes promoting innovative solutions in the fields of waste management, social entrepreneurship, environmental protection, circular economy, and other activities that support the sustainable development of Armenia. ISSD NGO operates in different regions of Armenia. It aims at creating positive change in people's lives by providing new opportunities to empower sustainable development.

RE-USE FEDERATION CZ

Reuse centres and furniture banks are both new concepts to the Czech Republic which help to reduce waste and promote a circular way of living. NGOs and individuals who run reuse centres or furniture banks formed a <u>"Reuse Federation"</u> network with an aim to enhance its



OUR NEW MEMBERS

co-operation and leverage their social, ecological, and economic impacts of waste prevention across the country. They aim to set up a community of practice, sharing best practices in the reuse field, and supporting existing organizations in order to make them more recognised and sustainable.

believes that supporting European citizens in their choice by bringing transparency and a longevity/price ratio will dramatically change the consumption habits towards a more reasonable and sustainable behaviour. They work closely with all stakeholders from expert repairers & spare parts specialists to manufacturers & distributors to create value and boost their positive impact.

products), to fight against outdated practices. Ethikis









RREUSE TEAM

.



Director Michal Len



Financial Manager Paolo Ferraresi



Network Development and Innovation Manager Jana Žůrková



Communication Officer (until January 2022) Kelly Piron



Communication Officer (since February 2022) Myrto Delkou



Policy Officer – Social Affairs (since March 2022) Simone Schirru



Policy Officer – Environment (until April 2022) Mathieu Rama



Policy Officer – Environment (since June 2022) Edoardo Bodo



Project and Advocacy Officer (since June 2022) Marie-Jeanne Gaertner



Research Officer Oscar Plannels





RREUSE FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

End of year result 2022	14,374	rreuse*
TOTAL INCOME	582,899	`
EXCEPTIONAL INCOME	162	
TOTAL	582,737	
Other income	5,987	
Other private contributions	17,500	
European Commission projects	51,222	
European Commission Operating Grant	443,574	
Membership Fees	57,650	
Conference Fees	6,804	
INCOME		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	568,525	3
EXCEPTIONAL CHARGES	15,199	
TOTAL	553,326	
Interests/Bank charges	1,631	NR 2023
Depreciation	4,027	116 001
Staff	425,377	
Conference-seminars	5,036	Zz
Travel-Subsistence	38,182	`
Office Costs	44,852	
Subcontracting & Services	34,222	

ACTIVITY REPORT

THANKS!

RREUSE is grateful for financial support from its member organisations, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Interreg Europe, Interreg Central Europe and Horizon Europe programmes.

RREUSE appreciates the support of the EU Commission's Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI". The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.







LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

www.rreuse.org



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

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