



THE DIGITAL ERA
OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Project final conference

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

Brussels, Belgium - 12 September 2024

[Event website](#)

[Registration form](#)

Venue: L42 business center & workspaces
Rue de la Loi 42, 1040 Brussels

Digitalisation is on the rise, offering a crucial opportunity to enhance efficiency and visibility. The majority of organisations, companies, and public institutions are embracing digital tools, and social enterprises are no different.

Despite challenges linked to the need for extra funding and upskilling their workforce, many social enterprises are already using digital tools to bolster their circular economy and social inclusion activities. How can we overcome these obstacles and inspire further progress in the sector?

Join the final conference of the [DigiSocCirc](#) project led by [RREUSE](#), Europe's largest network of social enterprises active in reuse, repair and recycling, to dive into the opportunities and challenges in the digital era of social enterprises within the circular economy.

About the project

The DigiSocCirc project aims to support, optimise, and accelerate social circular enterprises' active role in the digital era. The consortium is composed of 10 individual or national networks of social enterprise partners, all members of the RREUSE network.

At the final conference, the DigiSocCirc consortium will share the project's key findings and facilitate engaging panel discussions with representatives from social enterprises, businesses, and policymakers. These discussions will showcase project partners' best



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practices and initiatives in digitalising social enterprises, such as the implementation of logistics and management tools, digital skills training for workers from vulnerable groups, and the development of second-hand e-commerce platforms. They will outline successful strategies and challenges in accelerating the transition towards digitalising social enterprise activities as a whole.

The project's objectives:

- Mapping existing digital initiatives and main trends in the reuse and repair sector;
- Identifying impact and opportunity for social inclusion and skills;
- Creating a roadmap for circular and social enterprises to embrace digital tools;
- Promoting cross-border cooperation to develop common collective digital solutions.

You can access the project outputs [here](#), including the project's case studies and findings report.

Take advantage of this opportunity to gain new insights and expand your professional network!



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Agenda

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome coffee

09:30 – 10:00 **The digital era of social enterprises: Trends and opportunities within the circular economy**

Conference opening and welcome words

- Jana Žůrková - Deputy Director, RREUSE
- Frank Siebern-Thomas - Head of Unit, Fair Green and Digital Transitions, Research unit, European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)

Introduction to the project and summary of the main takeaways

- Frederick Ryan Wallace - Projects and Grant Management Officer, RREUSE
- Charlotte Chng - Network Development and Research Officer, RREUSE

10:00 – 10:50 **Panel 1: The digital era of social enterprises: Presentations of social enterprises pioneering digitalisation in reuse activities**
Panel discussion and Q&A with the audience
Moderator: Frederick Ryan Wallace - Projects and Grant Management Officer, RREUSE

- Liza Hoefnagels - Project Officer Circular & Social, [Branchevereniging Kringloop Nederland](#) (Netherlands)
- Peter Wagner - Project Manager, [Re-Use Austria](#)
- Esko Janatuinen - E-commerce Manager, [Kierrätyskeskus](#) (Finland)
- Sabine Rolf - Managing Director, [Re-Use Deutschland](#) (Germany)

10:50 – 11:20 Coffee break

11:20 – 12:10 **Panel 2: Accelerating the digital transition of social circular enterprises**
Panel discussion and Q&A with the audience
Moderator: Jana Žůrková - Deputy Director, RREUSE



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- Karel Vanderpoorten - Policy Officer Social Economy, European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)
 - Jeanne Bretécher, President & Co-Founder - [Social Good Accelerator](#)
 - Vesna Bajšanski-Agić Vice President of Strategic Alliances and Global Development, [Techsoup](#)
 - Ivan Božić - Cooperative manager, [Humana Nova](#) (Croatia) & Board member, RREUSE

12:10 – 12:20 Takeaways and closing remarks

12:30 – 13:30 Networking lunch



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