


SOCIAL AND CIRCULAR: THRIVING IN 2050

International conference co-organised by RREUSE and BKN

15 & 16 October 2024, The Hague

Agenda

DAY 1: SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AS CIRCULARITY LEADERS AND INCLUSIVE EMPLOYERS

General access. Dutch-English interpretation provided.
 Provinciehuis Zuid-Holland, Zuidhollandplein 1, Den Haag

→ Plenary, part 1: 9:30 - 11:00

Meindert Stolk

Deputy of the Province of South Holland

Words of welcome and opening

Reuse and repair social enterprises: pioneers of the circular economy and experts in social employment.

Rachel Heijne

Director of BKN

Where are we now? What is the unique position of social enterprises in the circular economy, and what is their role as social employers? What are the latest developments in the sector, and what are the main challenges? We will present the latest facts and figures (Monitor 2023).

RREUSE: an international network of social enterprises active in reuse, repair and recycling.

Neva Nahtigal

Director of RREUSE

Specialising in the field of reuse, repair, and recycling, the members of the RREUSE network not only provide local and inclusive employment but also foster a strong sense of belonging for the most vulnerable in our societies, making a significant impact on local communities. Where do we stand now, and what are our ambitions?

A social circular economy.

Anne-Marie Rakhorst

Chair of the Consumer Goods Transition Agenda

What is needed for a thriving circular economy in 2050? What role do social enterprises play in this? The circular economy requires a lot of workers in times of tight labour markets. How do we connect social and circular objectives, and how can they support each other on the way to a social circular economy?



Work: so much more than a means of putting food on the table.

Tamara van Ark

Former Dutch Minister of Health and State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment

Why is work so important? What does this yield for people and for society as a whole? How do we connect with the circular work field so that, when we help people on their way to work, we also focus on future work? Tamara will share her expertise to link it to the role of reuse and repair social enterprises as social employers.

Work, welfare and well-being.

Rian Hofma

General Practitioner

Stories about patients' experiences, particularly within social enterprises, focused on well-being.

→ Break: 11:00 - 11:30

→ Plenary, part 2: 11-30 - 12:45

The social and circular sector, an example from Belgium

Eva Verraes

Director of Herwin

The social and circular sector in Belgium is controlled and supported by the government. What are the pros and cons, and what can other countries learn from this?

Brigitte Fellahi-Brognaux

Head of Unit Social and Inclusive Entrepreneurship of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

What can social economy actors expect from the EU?

We will delve into recent EU-level policy developments in the area of social economy. How are they affecting national-level policies? What impact can this have on social enterprises in the circular economy? What remains to be done?

Araya Sumter

Director-General for Social Security and Integration, Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment

Social and Circular: how do we strengthen each other?

A discussion about the need to bridge the social and circular domains to address challenges in the field of circular economy and social employment.

Circular economy requires a comprehensive approach.

Steven van Eijck

Dutch Government Special Envoy for the Circular Economy

We need an all-encompassing approach to achieve a truly circular economy by 2050. How does the Dutch government's special envoy for the circular economy plan to connect with other domains? What upcoming developments does he foresee, and what will be his focus in the near future? What can other EU member states learn from this?



Matthias Neitsch
President of RREUSE

Margriet Jongerius
President of BKN

Jan van Ginkel
Representative of the
Province of South Holland

Closing panel discussion.

Takeaways from the morning's discussions from a European, national and regional perspective.

→ **Lunch break: 12:45 - 13:45**

→ **First round of side sessions: 13:45 - 14:45**

Side sessions on specific topics: cooperation between social enterprises, mainstream businesses and public authorities, Extended Producer Responsibility, financial incentives and BKN Academy. You will find below the side sessions accessible to non-Dutch-speaking attendees.

1A. Circular momentum through unique collaborations (NL-EN interpretation)

This interactive session will showcase 3 inspiring examples of collaborations between social enterprises, businesses and public authorities:

- Textiles: Het Goed and Zeeman - 2nd hand clothing in an existing retail chain;
- Electronics: De Kringloper and BSH Netherlands - high-quality repair of white goods;
- Repair Coalition: The Province of South Holland and the Repair Coalition - a collaboration between private and public sectors.

How future-proof are such collaborations? What made these examples successful, and what are the lessons for other reuse and repair social enterprises and companies that want to collaborate? Find out more during this side session.

1C. Extended Producer Responsibility regulations - learning from each other (EN)

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations are becoming more widespread as a way to hold producers accountable. Some European countries have already implemented EPR for textiles, and they differ across the continent. What have we learnt so far, and how can social enterprises be involved in the making and functioning of upcoming EPR schemes for textiles? During this session, experts from several EU countries will discuss these topics.

Speakers:

- **Franck Kerckhof**, Deputy Director - Ressources (Belgium)
- **Auke van der Hoek**, Director - KringCoop (Netherlands)
- **Thomas Ahlmann**, Managing Director - FairWertung (Germany)



→ Second round of side sessions: 15:00 - 16:00

Side sessions on specific topics: circular craft centres, inspiring social and circular policy examples, inclusive employment and Dutch circular textile strategy. Side sessions below are accessible to non-Dutch-speaking attendees.

2B. Inclusive society: attracting and retaining people within the reuse sector (NL-EN interpretation)

The interest in the second-hand sector is increasing, leading to more people seeking to get involved in reuse organisations. But how can our sector remain attractive and accessible to new people in the future?

During this session, we will explore the strategies of successful employers who manage to retain people and keep them involved. Lessons from the audience and workshop participants will complement their experiences. As an employer, supervisor, or consultant, you will gain a better idea of what does and does not work in attracting and retaining people for the reuse sector.

2C. Inspiring social and circular policy examples from across the EU (EN)

Various EU countries have taken steps toward a more enabling environment for social enterprises in the circular economy. These include measures such as tax benefits, repair vouchers, reuse targets and reserved contracts in public procurement. How did these measures come about? How do they work in practice? What can we learn from these examples? Should they be replicated in other countries? Join this session to discuss these questions and more with the RREUSE network.

Speakers:

- **Matthias Neitsch**, Managing Director - Re-Use Austria
- **Jean-Marc Caudron**, Director - Ressources (Belgium)
- **Jack McCarthy**, Research Officer - Rediscovery Centre (Ireland)
- **Carmen Aja Ruiz**, Director - AERESS (Spain)

→ Networking reception: 16:00 - 18:00



DAY 2: SECURING A PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN REUSE, REPAIR AND RECYCLING

Restricted to BKN and RREUSE members (and their members).

 **Grand Café Utopie, Waldeck Pyrmontkade 116, Den Haag**

08:30 - 09:00 *Welcome coffee/tea and registration for Day 2*

09:00-09:10 **Conference, day 2 opening**

Welcome by **Neva Nahtigal**, Director - RREUSE and **Brigitte Fellahi-Brognaux**, Head of Unit Social and Inclusive Entrepreneurship of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

09:10-10:20 **Session 1 - plenary: Social and circular thriving in 2050**

In the opening roundtable discussion we will be challenging ourselves to envision a thriving social and circular economy sector in 2050. What would that look like? What will it take to get there?

Speakers:

- **Matthias Neitsch**, President - RREUSE; and Managing Director - Re-Use Austria
- **Eve Poulteau**, Chief Executive - Emmaüs Europe
- **Wieteke Dupain**, Chief Executive - Euclid Network
- **Hilde van Duijn**, Managing Director - Circle Economy Foundation

10:20-10:50 *Coffee break*

10:50-11:50 **Session 2 - plenary: Ensuring financial viability through Extended Producer Responsibility**

Examining the future of EPR, including the issues of governance, cost coverage and access to waste streams for social enterprises with an expert panel.

Speakers:

- **Antigone Dalamaga**, Vice President and Honorary President - RREUSE; and Director - Ecological Recycling Society (Greece)
- **Nesrine Dani**, New Projects Director - Fédération Envie (France)
- **Vanya Veras**, Secretary General - Municipal Waste Europe
- **Janine Röling**, Policy Coordinator EPR - Collective Circular Textiles

11:50 - 12:00 **Instructions and moving around**

12:00-13:00 **Session 3 - breakout: ConverStations**

Deepening the conversation on EPR and other issues that matter the most to



social enterprises in reuse, repair and recycling. These conversations will take place in two rounds and in smaller groups hosted by speakers and participants.

13:00-14:00

Lunch (provided for all participants)

14:00-15:30

Session 4 - plenary: Garnering support by communicating impact

Creating positive social and environmental impacts is at the heart of what social enterprises in reuse, repair and recycling do every day. How can we best define, measure, and communicate those impacts to ensure that local communities, policymakers, funders, and other relevant actors understand and appreciate them?

Speakers:

- **Carmen Aja Ruiz**, Director - AERESS
- **Eimear Montague**, Executive Director - Northern Ireland Resources Network (NIRN)
- **Els Houttequiet**, Project Manager - HERWIN
- **Baptiste Vasseur**, Policy Officer - European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE)
- **Diego Peñaloza**, PhD, Senior Life Cycle Assessment Researcher - RISE Research Institutes of Sweden

15:30-16:00

Coffee break

16:00-17:30

Session 5 - plenary and breakout groups: Staying ahead of the curve through social, circular and digital innovation

RREUSE network is bursting with innovation that can help ensure a bright future for our sector and those who find employment and other opportunities within it. This dynamic session will spotlight innovative practices from different countries and thematic areas. Short introductions will be followed by deeper peer-to-peer exchanges in smaller groups of presenters and conference participants.

Featured innovations:

- **Furniture banks**, Dana Kalistova - Reuse Federation (Czech Republic)
- **Circular craft centres**, Liza Hoefnagels - BKN (the Netherlands)
- **First hours programme**, Emmaüs Défi (France)
- **Easing the transition to other jobs**, Ateliere Fara Frontiere (Romania)
- **Digital management system**, Jean-Marc Caudron - Ressources (Belgium)
- **AI for furniture management**, Esko Janatuinen - Kierrätyskeskus (Finland)
- **Textile repair**, Laura Lambrecht - De Kringwinkel Antwerpen (Belgium)
- **Urban mining**, Nicolas Denis - Reware (Italy)

17:30-18:00

Session 6 - plenary: Key takeaways and way forward

