

2020-2025

A SOCIAL AND CIRCULAR OUTLOOK

RREUSE's vision is a Europe that supports the role of social enterprise in the transition to a circular economy, prioritising activities in re-use and repair. Actions under the **European Green Deal, Circular Economy Action Plan 2.0** and future **Action Plan for the Social Economy** must ensure a job-rich, just and inclusive circular transition focused on the wellbeing of all individuals.

RREUSE is a network representing social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling across 25 European countries and the USA. The 850 social enterprises federated by RREUSE's 26 members provide work opportunities for 95,000 employees, volunteers and trainees, collectively diverting 1,000,000 tonnes of goods from landfill per year.

Policy Priorities

- 1 Introduce ambitious waste prevention, re-use and preparation for re-use targets in EU and national waste laws** drawing inspiration from Member States and regions which already have them in place.
- 2 Impose repairability and durability requirements to ensure all products under the scope of the Ecodesign Directive are circular.** Similar design rules must also be set for product categories not covered by the Directive, notably textiles and furniture.
- 3 Ensure Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes support the top of the EU waste hierarchy,** notably by fixing a proportion of EPR fees to re-use, repair and preparation for re-use activities.
- 4 Support stronger guidance and leadership in green and social procurement** to encourage increased inclusion and use of social clauses, reserved contracts and environmental criteria within both public and private tendering procedures.



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5 Ensure Member States set reduced Value Added Tax (VAT) rates for activities contributing to environmental improvement, notably re-use and repair. Maintain EU VAT rules supporting reduced rates for services contributing to social welfare, such as those provided by social enterprises, should the proposed revision of the EU VAT Directive be concluded.

6 Provide financial incentives to help develop social enterprise activities in the circular economy by making investments and funding such as InvestEU and ESF+ funds more easily accessible to smaller entities and networks. Back calls for funding proposals rewarding circular and social thinking.

7 Account for social impact recognition through continued investment and dialogue concerning social impact metrics as a means of demonstrating the positive effect of social enterprises on communities.

8 Ensure the European Semester supports the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and encourages Member States to recognise and promote stronger ecosystems fostering the development of social and circular enterprise in their territories.



Proud to be a part of the transition to a greener, social Europe

For details of our members & policy recommendations see www.rreuse.org or call +32 (0)2 894 46 14