

## The European project SUBTRACT has started

RREUSE collaborates with six international partners on re-use. From the 7-10 October, partners from seven European countries, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, discussed the future of re-use in Europe at the headquarters of AURI, the Umbrian Waste and Water Authority in Perugia, Italy. Representatives from regional governments like Styria and Catalonia, waste authorities such as Vakin from Sweden, managers and experts of re-use centres were amongst those in attendance. Re-use, the backbone of the circular economy, requires technical skills to intercept goods that are still in good condition before they end up in the separate waste collection or worse, in landfills. Such centres, often run by social enterprises, require management to ensure re-use centres functionality and appeal, and economic skills to balance accounts and offer stable jobs for persons previously distant from the labour market. The project will address all these aspects through exchanges of experience, study visits, elaboration of guidelines. The SUBTRACT project, a part of the Interreg Europe interregional cooperation program of the European Commission is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). AURI is Lead Partner of the project and Giuseppe Rossi, the director of the organisation is eager to engage in an innovative project that will have immediate effects on the Umbrian territory. "Our starting point", he says "is the initiative of the Umbria Region to support the municipalities in the creation of re-use centres. Two are already in operation, Marsciano and Perugia San Marco, nine others should be up and running in the not too distant future. SUBTRACT for us is an opportunity to show our activities and we did it with a guided visit to the centre of San Marco, but above all to learn from the very advanced realities like that of Finland where we talk about re-use centres that look like department stores. But they too, like all the other project partners, feel the need for exchange and common work to make re-use even more widespread and effective in each reality, to reduce the creation of waste and contribute to the conservation of resources and the struggle against climate change." The Department for European Policies of the Region of Umbria and the Regional Waste Management, present at this 'Kick-off Meeting', will follow the project carefully. Several Municipalities have already expressed their interest in being involved in the work. RREUSE will be advisory partners for SUBTRACT, with the project timeline from August 2019 to January 2023.



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*RREUSE is an independent non-profit organisation representing social enterprises active in the field of re-use, repair and recycling, with 27 members across 25 countries in Europe and the USA.*

*Our main vision is for Europe to support the role of social enterprise in a circular economy, providing meaningful work opportunities to thousands of vulnerable members of our community through innovative economic, social and environmentally beneficial activities.*

*RREUSE's primary mission is to help tackle poverty, social exclusion and a throwaway culture by promoting policies, best practices and partnerships that support the professionalism and development of social enterprises working in environmental services with high potential for local and inclusive job creation, notably re-use and repair.*