

TO INCLUSION
THE CIRCULAR WAY

GUIDE OF BEST PRACTICES ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CIRCULAR ECONOMY



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GUIDE OF BEST PRACTICES ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY

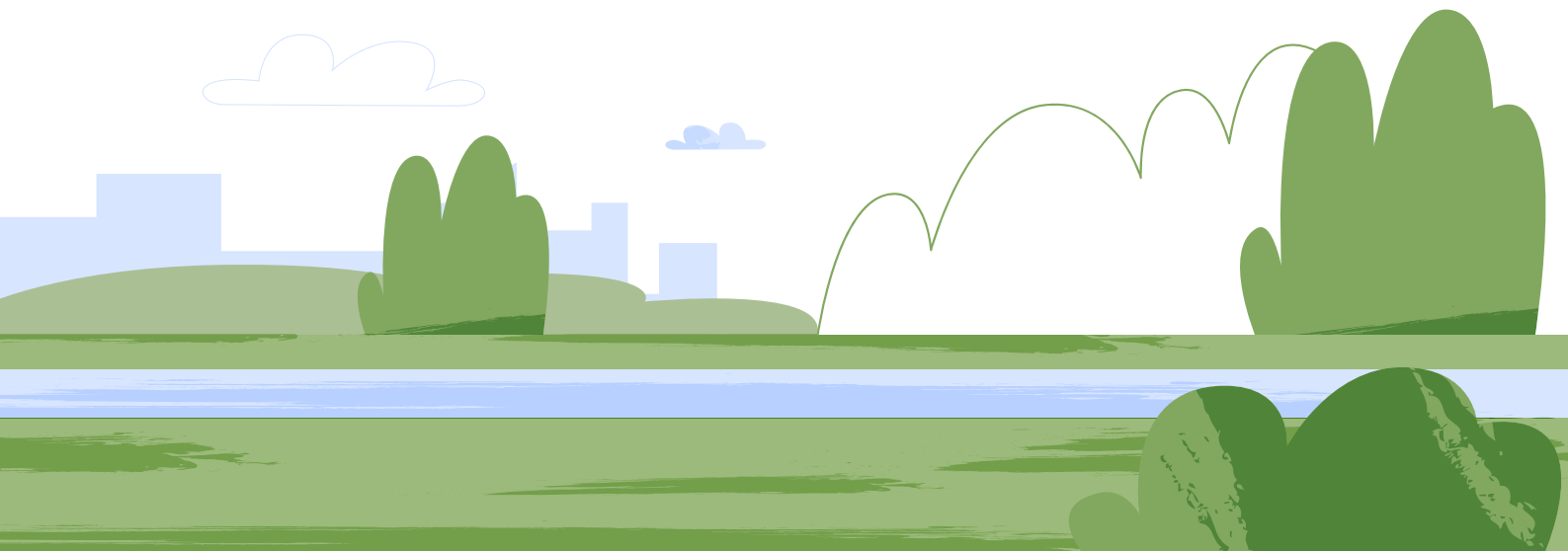
INTRODUCTION

This Guide is a compilation of factsheets describing various circular economy best practices across Europe. These include both profit and non-profit initiatives, from small-scale start-ups to established NGOs, addressing a variety of topics in different sectors, but always combining environmental and social action.

The objective of these factsheets is to show concrete and successful examples of circular initiatives that demonstrate what is possible through circular thinking and strategies. Youth workers can use these factsheets to select relevant examples to share with youngsters and inspire them to join similar initiatives in their country, or even replicate in their own city.

Each factsheet contains a short description of the tackled environmental problem, basic information about the initiative, and a list of the skills/competences that youngsters can gain by getting involved and offers actionable insights and practical tips on how to implement circular economy strategies that benefit the environment.

Further links are provided where more detailed information can be obtained.



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE



@Crusenho Agus Hennihuno

Regenerative agriculture is a way of farming that focuses on biodiversity and soil health, which has been degraded by the use of heavy machinery, fertilizers and pesticides in intensive farming. It uses ecological practices such as annual crop rotation, the use of compost, cover crops and green manure. Regenerative agriculture rejects the use of chemical (potentially harmful) substances, such as pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and fertilizers, but instead ecosystem services to produce in harmony with nature.

Country:

International (examples: Belgium, Portugal)

Difficulty level:

Organizing - Medium / difficult

Why?

Regenerative agriculture is an essential pillar of the circular economy given the immense environmental impact of the agricultural sector. According to Regeneration International, there may not be enough healthy soil left to feed the world within 50 years. Intensive farming also causes the soil to release naturally stored CO₂ into the atmosphere. Furthermore, damaged soil and eroded land increase the vulnerability of ecosystems to extreme weather events, such as flooding.

How youngsters can get involved

Young people can practice regenerative agriculture by:

- 1 participating in existing projects as volunteers
- 2 setting up community gardens and planting certain crops (for example, low maintenance crops), using regenerative agriculture techniques

Skills and Competences

- > awareness of the benefits of regenerative agriculture
- > knowledge about agriculture and its environmental impacts

How youngsters can get involved

Herdade do Freixo do Meio (Portugal):
<https://freixodomeio.pt/> (<https://freixodomeio.pt/>)

Slow Flower (Belgium):
<https://www.iletaitunefleur.be/>
(<https://www.iletaitunefleur.be/>)

PRECIOUS PLASTICS



Precious Plastics is a platform which aims to empower the community to take action on the plastic pollution problem. It brings people together to share and create knowledge, in order to create an alternative global recycling system. This is achieved by:

- > Improving the economy and quality of plastics recycling
- > Designing for recyclability
- > Boosting product demand and use of recycled plastic

Country:

International (examples: Portugal, Greece, France, Spain, Austria, Croatia, Estonia and Netherlands)

Difficulty level:

Medium/dif cult

Why?

Plastic is used in everyday objects and it is the most common material in disposable utensils. Almost 26 million tonnes of plastic waste are generated in Europe every year. If not properly managed, this waste will pollute the soil and water as it degrades, creating microplastics. The oceans and their biodiversity suffer from this pollution as well, as 80% of marine litter is plastic. Therefore it is urgent to develop solutions regarding alternative, more sustainable materials and circular solutions to avoid plastic waste.

How youngsters can get involved

- > assisting skilled people develop machines to recycle plastic
- > recycling and upcycling plastic to create new products, such as furniture, accessories and construction materials
- > learning about business models related to plastic, through the available educational content

Skills and Competences

- > design
- > awareness of the environmental impacts of plastic pollution
- > knowledge about sustainable solutions for plastic
- > technical knowledge about recycling
- > knowledge about new business models related to plastic

How youngsters can get involved

International:

<https://community.preciousplastic.com/>
(<https://community.preciousplastic.com/>)

<https://preciousplastic.com/> (<https://preciousplastic.com/>)

Portugal:

<https://www.vivalabporto.com/preciousplasticportugal>
(<https://www.vivalabporto.com/preciousplasticportugal>)

Greece:

<https://www.preciousplasticnaxos.com/>
(<https://www.preciousplasticnaxos.com/>)

France:

<https://preciousplastic.fr/> (<https://preciousplastic.fr/>)

Spain:

<https://www.preciousplasticgrancanaria.com/>
(<https://www.preciousplasticgrancanaria.com/>)

<https://preciosplasticvalencia.com/>
(<https://preciosplasticvalencia.com/>)

<https://www.ppcapispain.com/en-gb>
(<https://www.ppcapispain.com/en-gb>)

Austria:

<https://preciousplastic.wien/> (<https://preciousplastic.wien/>)

Croatia:

<https://www.fablab.hr/projects/precious-plastic-croatia/>
(<https://www.fablab.hr/projects/precious-plastic-croatia/>)

Estonia:

<https://plastic.makerspace.ee/>
(<https://plastic.makerspace.ee/>)

Netherlands:

<https://preciousplasticdenhaag.nl/>
(<https://preciousplasticdenhaag.nl/>)

FURNITURE UPCYCLING



@Cottonbro Studio

Upcycling is the recovery and repurposing of discarded objects in a creative way, preventing them from being incinerated or wasted in landfills. The objects are repurposed to create products with a higher esthetic value. In the case of furniture, for instance, it often has to be repaired, renovated or refurbished as a whole or parts that are reused in other pieces.

Country:

International (examples: France, Ireland, Italy, Belgium and Netherlands)

Difficulty level:

Medium / Difficult

Why?

In the EU, 10 million tonnes of furniture are discarded every year. We discard furniture when it is damaged, but also when we want to substitute it with new designs. Upcycling the furniture instead of disposing of it avoids incineration (which would cause CO₂ emissions) and the waste of materials and of the resources used in the production, such as water and energy.

How youngsters can get involved

- 1 Find a local carpenter to repair broken furniture
- 2 Look for a carpentry course and learn to repair furniture
- 3 Organize an upcycling workshop together with people with repair skills

Skills and Competences

- > repairing furniture
- > using tools
- > knowledge on different materials used to build furniture
- > design

How youngsters can get involved

Atelier Extramuros (France):
<https://www.atelier-extramuros.com/> (<https://www.atelier-extramuros.com/>)

Extramuros L'Association (France):
<https://www.extramuros.org/>
(<https://www.extramuros.org/qui-sommes-nous>)

ReFunk (Ireland):
<https://www.refunkupcycling.com/>
(<https://www.refunkupcycling.com/>)

Upcycle Furniture (Italy):
<https://upcyclefurniture.it/> (<https://upcyclefurniture.it/>)

Impact Furniture (Belgium):
<https://oxfambelgique.be/impact-furniture>
(<https://oxfambelgique.be/impact-furniture>)

Buurman (Netherlands):
<https://www.buurman.in/english>
(<https://www.buurman.in/english>)

SECOND-HAND CLOTHES



@Hulki Okan Tabak

Several projects aim to reduce the overconsumption of clothing, through various activities such as promoting knowledge about sustainable clothing, prolong clothes' lifespan, or by organizing second-hand markets and clothes swaps. These practices reduce the demand for new, mass-produced clothing and maintain materials in use for longer, while also redistributing affordable clothes.

Country:

International

Target Group:

People with fewer opportunities, facing economic and social difficulties

Difficulty level:

People with fewer opportunities, facing economic and social difficulties

Why?

Fast fashion is responsible for several negative environmental impacts, as the price of the clothes drop, people have less incentive to reuse. In the EU, each person discards around 11 kg of clothes per year. Almost 90% of the used clothes are incinerated or deposited in landfills. Textile production is responsible for about 20% of water pollution, which results from dyeing and finishing processes. Furthermore, the fashion industry accounts for 10% of carbon emissions in the world, which is more than international flights and maritime shipping combined.

How youngsters can get involved

There are several activities that need to be done in order to organize a second hand clothes market:

- 1 Collect clothes that are no longer in use by the current owner, for example, through donations
- 2 Analyzing if the clothes are suitable for sale/swap
- 3 Repair clothes if needed
- 4 Price the clothes (in case of a secondhand market)
- 5 Choose a place to set up the sales/swap event
- 6 Publicize event
- 7 Execute

Skills and Competences

- > awareness of the environmental impacts of clothes
- > knowledge about sustainable alternatives for fast fashion
- > sewing and mending clothes
- > customer service

How youngsters can get involved

ReCloset (Portugal):

<https://recloset.net/> (<https://recloset.net/>)

Fashion Revolution (UK, International):

<http://fashionrevolution.org/clothes-swap/>
(<http://fashionrevolution.org/clothes-swap/>)

Clean Clothes Campaign (Netherlands, International):

<https://cleanclothes.org/> (<https://cleanclothes.org/>)

Fashion for Good (Netherlands):

<https://fashionforgood.com/> (<https://fashionforgood.com/>)

REDISCOVER CYCLING



@ Cottonbro Studio

Rediscover Cycling is a social enterprise which promotes the repair and reuse of bicycles and that provides training and employment opportunities. It was created in 2010 and is located at the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun, in Dublin.

Country:

Ireland

Target Group:

People with fewer opportunities, facing economic, social and cultural obstacles

Difficulty level:

Easy-Medium

Why?

“Rediscover Cycling” extends the lifespan of equipment and materials through repair and reuse. By decreasing mass production of bikes, it reduces resource use (materials, energy and water) and avoids environmental impacts, such as CO₂ emissions. Rediscover Cycling also has social benefits, because it provides access to bicycles at a lower cost. Most importantly, it promotes the use of a more sustainable mode of transportation that does not cause GHG emissions.

How youngsters can get involved

Youngsters can replicate this initiative by following these steps:

- 1 Collect bicycle donations
- 2 Repair and recondition bicycles (possibly with the help of skilled people)
- 3 Sell or reuse the reconditioned bicycles

Skills and Competences

- > repairing bikes
- > using tools
- > bike design, materials and components
- > sustainable transport

How youngsters can get involved

www.rediscoverycentre.ie/rediscover-cycling
(<http://www.rediscoverycentre.ie/rediscover-cycling>)

COMPOSTING



@Denise Nys

Composting is a natural process through which organic material is decomposed and turned into a fertilizer. Composting initiatives provide resources, structures and educational content to promote composting at home or in a community. The local communities are engaged and learn the value of organic waste as a resource. At the same time, the costs of waste management for the municipality decrease.

Country:

International (examples: Belgium, Bulgaria, Portugal, Slovakia)

Difficulty level:

Easy

Why?

Depending on the region, organic material represents between 30% and 50% of the municipal waste in the EU. The majority of this waste is still disposed of through landfilling (24%) or incineration (27%), which contributes to Climate Change, as organic material emits methane as it decays and CO₂ if incinerated. After composting, this type of waste can be used as a fertilizer, improving depleted soils and decreasing the use of chemical fertilizers. Chemical/inorganic fertilizers have negative environmental impacts, such as causing damage to the beneficial microbes and bacteria in the soil and increasing the concentration of salt in the soil, which makes water unavailable for plants.

How youngsters can get involved

Composting is an easy process that anyone can perform in their backyard. If you don't have a yard, you can compost in a community garden or even join a community composting initiative.

Skills and Competences

- > knowledge about composting and agriculture
- > improving soil quality

How youngsters can get involved

Worms Asbl (Belgium):

<https://www.wormsasbl.org/> (<https://www.wormsasbl.org/>)

Composting Home (Bulgaria):

<http://www.composting-home.eu/>
(<http://www.composting-home.eu/>)

Educar para uma Economia Circular (Portugal):

<https://www.residuosdonordeste.pt/eec/>
(<https://www.residuosdonordeste.pt/eec/>)

Community Composting (Slovakia):

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/good-practices/community-composting-in-the-city-of-nitra>
(<https://www.interregeurope.eu/good-practices/community-composting-in-the-city-of-nitra>)

CRITICAL CONCRETE



Critical Concrete is focused on researching, educating, designing and consulting on sustainable construction methods. The project defines sustainable construction as long lasting and easily repairable structures, made of locally sourced materials and upcycled waste.

Country:

Portugal

Difficulty level:

Medium

Why?

Construction requires a great quantity of resources: in the EU, it accounts for about 50% of all extracted material. The construction sector also generates more than 35% of the EU's waste. On the other hand, it is also responsible for greenhouse gas emissions: material extraction, manufacturing of construction products, construction and renovation of buildings account for 5 to 12% of emissions .

How youngsters can get involved

Youngsters can organize participatory design workshops in collaboration with Universities or other NGOs (in these workshops, people from different design backgrounds create sustainable solutions. The sessions are exploratory and interesting solutions to tricky problems can arise, as participants are encouraged to think out of the box)

Skills and Competences

- > knowledge about sustainable construction
- > knowledge about social problems
- > upcycling
- > design
- > problem solving
- > teamwork

How youngsters can get involved

criticalconcrete.com (<https://criticalconcrete.com>)

FERTILIZER FROM REUSED COFFEE GROUNDS



@ Irina Iriser

Mushrooms are produced with used coffee grounds, which are collected from other companies, avoiding waste and creating circular jobs. The coffee grounds contain minerals and useful nutrients for mushroom growth. As the coffee grounds do not need to be pasteurized, this type of project also saves energy in the production. The coffee grounds are used as soil as compost after use

Country:

International (examples: Italy, Portugal, Netherlands and Belgium)

Difficulty level:

Medium

Why?

Each day, millions of people drink coffee and hundreds of tonnes of coffee grounds are produced on a daily basis. Instead of wasting tonnes of coffee grounds, they can be recovered to produce mushrooms and, in the end, be composted, which closes the organic cycle and enriches the soil.

How youngsters can get involved

- 1 Establishing partnership with companies or communities that produce coffee grounds
- 2 Defining collection routes and methods
- 3 Collecting the coffee grounds
- 4 Producing mushrooms
- 5 Consuming or selling the product

Skills and Competences

Hard skills

- > Mushroom cultivation
- > knowledge about local symbiosis
- > developing an innovative business model
- > management
- > logistics

Soft skills

- > decision making
- > teamwork
- > resilience
- > commitment

How youngsters can get involved

Funghi Espresso (Italy):

<https://www.funghiespresso.com/>
(<https://www.funghiespresso.com/>)

Nãm (Portugal):

<https://nammushroom.com/> (<https://nammushroom.com/>)

Rotterzwam (Netherlands):

<https://www.rotterzwam.nl/> (<https://www.rotterzwam.nl/>)

Perma Fungi (Belgium):

<https://www.permafungi.be/> (<https://www.permafungi.be/>)

BRILLENWELTWEIT



BrilleWeltweit funds eyewear projects through cooperation with job centers and local organizations, providing job opportunities for long-term unemployed people. The project promotes the reuse of glasses, by receiving donations of used eyewear, which is then cleaned, reconditioned, measured, registered, packaged and donated to underprivileged people.

Country:

Germany

Difficulty level:

Difficult

Why?

By promoting the reuse of eyewear, BrilleWeltweit is not only creating social and economic benefits, but also reducing CO2 emissions, raw materials extraction and use of energy and water associated with mass production of new glasses.

How youngsters can get involved

Youngsters can donate their eyewear or replicate this initiative, by following these steps:

- 1 Collect donations
- 2 Identify underprivileged groups/people in need of eyewear
- 3 Clean, recondition, measure, register, package glasses (some of the activities, such as register, require knowledge about lenses strength)
- 4 Donate the repaired eyewear

Skills and Competences

- > Technical knowledge about eyewear repair
- > Knowledge about reverse logistics

How youngsters can get involved

brillennweltweit.de/en (<https://brillennweltweit.de/en>)

PREVENTING FOOD WASTE



@ Filmbetrachter

There are different types of initiatives to recuperate unsold food and raise awareness for this practice. For example: Fruta Feia (Portugal) sells products considered 'ugly', Last Minute Market (Italy) and SIRPLUS (Germany) sell food surplus, and GoodAfter (Portugal) sells products after their recommended consumption date, but which are still edible. These projects can be commercial startups and companies or social enterprises operating with volunteers. Some projects combine environmental with social objectives, distributing food to disadvantaged people or selling it at a symbolic price, such as REFOOD (Portugal) and Disco Soupe (France). Other projects, such as Culinary Misfits (Germany) and Stop Food Waste (Ireland), have a more educational purpose.

Country:

International (examples: Italy, Portugal, France, Germany)

Target Group:

People with fewer opportunities, facing economic, social and cultural obstacles

Difficulty level:

Organizing: Medium/Difficult

Why?

Food waste in the supply chain can occur through food losses in the production phase, from unsold surplus in the supermarkets or because the products (specially fruit and vegetables) are discarded based on their size, color and shape or are simply not sold in time. In the EU, each person generates on average 173 Kg of food waste every year. This has a huge environmental impact: food waste is responsible for 6% of total EU greenhouse gas emissions and means a waste of all the natural resources that were used during production, such as land and water. Food waste is also ethically problematic given the fact that there are millions of people who cannot afford quality food.

How youngsters can get involved

- 1 Identifying sources of unsold food, e.g. supermarkets, farmers, consumers
- 2 Creating agreements with suppliers to collect surplus or discarded food products
- 3 Developing business model and practical operations:
 - Gathering volunteers (applicable to social enterprises)
 - Planning the collection of food and executing
 - Cooking meals (if applicable)
 - Redistributing or selling recuperated food

Skills and Competences

- > awareness of the benefits of avoiding food waste
- > organizational skills
- > problem solving
- > teamwork
- > Cooking and culinary skills
- > knowledge about social inclusion
- > knowledge about environmental impacts of food systems
- > knowledge about food supply chain

How youngsters can get involved

Last Minute Market (Italy):

<https://www.lastminutemarket.it/english>
(<https://www.lastminutemarket.it/english>)

Disco Soupe (France):

<http://discosoupe.org/> (<http://discosoupe.org/>)

REFOOD (Portugal):

<https://re-food.org/> (<https://re-food.org/>)

Fruta Feia (Portugal):

<https://frutafeia.pt/> (<https://frutafeia.pt/>)

GodAfter (Portugal):

<https://goodafter.com/pt/> (<https://goodafter.com/pt/>)

Culinary Misfits (Germany):

<http://www.culinarymisfits.de/>
(<http://www.culinarymisfits.de/>)

SIRPLUS (Germany):

<https://sirplus.de/> (<https://sirplus.de/>)

Stop Food Waste (Ireland):

<https://stopfoodwaste.ie/> (<https://stopfoodwaste.ie/>)

ZERO WASTE RETAIL



@Polina Tankilevitch

Zero Waste shops reduce the packaging to the strictly essential, provide products with more sustainable packaging materials or eliminate packaging altogether. The customers use their own reusable containers when shopping. This type of store usually also incorporates other sustainable practices, such as sourcing organic or local products. It is estimated that each one of these stores avoid, on average, 1 tonne of packaging per year.

Country:

International

Target Group:

People from all ages and backgrounds

Difficulty level:

Easy-Medium-Difficult

Why?

Most packaging, from cosmetics to food, is disposable after one single use, which is a waste of resources. This causes massive amounts of plastic, paper, or mixed waste and pollution. Plastic litter in nature can break down into smaller microplastics, contaminating the soil and water. According to Eurostat, the EU generated 177.2 kg of packaging waste per resident in 2020, with paper and cardboard as the main materials wasted.

How youngsters can get involved

- 1 As consumers, they can do their shopping in a zero waste shop and in doing so, it is likely that they will become more aware of the benefits of reusable packaging and environmentally sustainable options.
- 2 Organizing a Zero Waste Fair, by inviting several zero waste businesses to present and sell their products in schools or other in other contexts.
- 3 Organize a Zero Waste Day, to stimulate students to bring their reusable containers to school.
- 4 Establish a Zero Waste Shop

Skills and Competences

- > reducing waste
- > awareness of alternative methods of packaging
- > awareness of more sustainable products
- > knowledge about impacts of consumption

How youngsters can get involved

Original Unverpackt (Germany):
<https://original-unverpackt.de/> (<https://original-unverpackt.de/>)

Robuust (Belgium)
<https://berobuust.com/> (<https://berobuust.com/>)

FOIFI Zero Waste (Switzerland)
<https://foifi.ch/> (<https://foifi.ch/>)

Zo Zero (Netherlands)
<https://zozero.nl/> (<https://zozero.nl/>)

Maria Granel (Portugal)
<https://www.mariagranel.com/>
(<https://www.mariagranel.com/>)

Magazin Zero Waste (Romania)
<https://magazinzerowaste.ro/>
(<https://magazinzerowaste.ro/>)

Roots Zero Waste Cosmetics (Latvia)
<https://www.rootscosmetics.eu/>
(<https://www.rootscosmetics.eu/>)

Ieber (Latvia):
<https://www.ieber.lv/> (<https://www.ieber.lv/>)

Bumerang (Spain)
<https://www.youbumerang.com/en>
(<https://www.youbumerang.com/en>)

REPAIR CAFE



@CEP

Repair Cafes are public events where people can repair objects together. Visitors bring their broken items from home to repair with the help of volunteers with skills in all kinds of fields. At a Repair Café there are tools and materials to repair various items, such as clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances and toys. This not only helps prevent waste, but also creates a sense of community among the participants. Furthermore, Repair Cafés provide a collaborative learning opportunity for everyone! There are over 2,500 Repair Cafés worldwide, organized by various types of local organizations, often run by volunteers.

Why?

Currently, enormous amounts of objects are discarded annually, from electronic devices to clothes and other everyday products. For example, research from the UN shows that the world generated 53.6 million tonnes of electronic waste in 2019 and the European Commission estimates that, on average, each person throws away 11kg of textiles every year in Europe.

In fact, most products and equipment are no longer made to last: this is called planned obsolescence - when the manufacturers deliberately create products that will malfunction or be out of date in a short period of time. This generates vast amounts of waste, as people no longer have the skills to repair objects by themselves, which causes pollution (e.g. contamination of soils, CO2 emissions) and waste of raw materials, as well as of water and energy.

How youngsters can get involved

- 1 Organizing a Repair Café by getting in touch with local institutions that organize Repair Cafés, or starting one themselves in their neighborhood. (There is a manual available on how to organize a Repair Café in Portuguese and maybe in other languages as well)
- 2 Joining a Repair Cafe as a participant or a volunteer in different areas

Skills and Competences

By joining a Repair Café, young people can develop several competences:

Hard Skills

- > repairing electronics and electrical equipment
- > sewing (mending clothes)
- > carpentry (fixing furniture)
- > fixing bicycles
- > using tools

Repairing objects can be complicated and may require technical training and specialised courses, but sometimes just experimenting and practice can already make things work. There are various sources available online that provide repair tips and tricks, such as iFixit.

Soft skills

- > organizational skills (in a volunteer setting)
- > problem solving
- > teamwork
- > intergenerational relations
- > communication

How youngsters can get involved

Repair Cafe International (<https://www.repaircafe.org/en/>)

Repair Café Lisboa
(<https://www.facebook.com/RepairCafeLisboa>)

Repair Café Manual (Portuguese) (https://projeto-reparar.pt/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/RepairCafe_manual_nal_WEB.pdf)

iFixit: The Free Repair Manual (<https://www.ifixit.com>)

ATELIERE FĂRĂ FRONTIERE ASSOCIATION (AFF)



AFF has projects in different areas, which promote social inclusion and the creation of jobs, while creating sustainable solutions. The projects are:

Educlick (<https://www.educlick.ro/>)

- > : recycling waste electrical and electronic equipment, such as computers, keyboards and screens, that are then donated to schools in disadvantaged areas in Romania

Re (<https://remesh.ro/>)

- > mesh (<https://remesh.ro/>) : upcycling advertising banners and meshes into new products and accessories

Bio&Co (<https://bio-co.ro/>)

- > : production of seasonal organic vegetables and delivery in a short logistics chain

Country:

Romania

Target Group:

People with fewer opportunities, facing economic and social difficulties

Difficulty level:

Medium

Why?

By promoting the recycling of electronic equipment, AFF is creating social and economic benefits, as well as tackling the electronic waste problem (in the EU, less than 40% of this type of waste is recycled). The Bio&Co project reduces the carbon footprint of food, by choosing local vegetables and implementing short distance logistics (the short distance allows fresh vegetables to be delivered on the same day of harvest).

How youngsters can get involved

Youngsters can participate in similar initiatives as volunteers or replicate the projects, by following these steps:

Educlick (<https://www.educlick.ro/>)

:

- 1 collect used electrical and electronic equipment, such as computers, keyboards and screens
- 2 repair the equipment
- 3 reuse, sell or donate the repaired objects

Remesh (<https://remesh.ro/>)

:

- 1 collect used advertising banners and meshes
- 2 upcycle the materials (designing, sewing) to produce new accessories, such as bags
- 3 use, sell or donate the new products

Bio&Co (<https://bio-co.ro/>)

:

- 1 create a community garden
- 2 produce seasonal organic vegetables
- 3 plan the logistic process
- 4 deliver the produce

Skills and Competences

- > technical knowledge about repairing electronics
- > upcycling of textiles
- > circular design
- > knowledge about logistics
- > knowledge about organic agriculture

How youngsters can get involved

atelierefarafrontiere.ro (<https://atelierefarafrontiere.ro>)

LIBRARY OF THINGS



@LTE Project, EU



The Library of Things is a space with different objects - such as tools, electronic and home equipment, toys and other everyday objects - that anyone can borrow for free or for a small fee.

Country:

International (examples: Germany, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Italy)

Target Group:

People with fewer opportunities, facing economic, social and cultural obstacles

Difficulty level:

Difficult

Why?

The Library reduces the need to purchase new items by encouraging people to share and reuse. Through more intensive use of products, extending the lifespan of equipment and materials and decreasing mass production of objects, the Library of Things reduces environmental impacts, such as CO2 emissions, extraction of raw materials and use of energy and water. The Library of Things also has social benefits, because it provides access to consumer products to underprivileged people.

How youngsters can get involved

- 1 Gather objects that can be used in the library of things
- 2 Find an available space
- 3 Set up a registry system and rules for lending the objects
- 4 Publicize the initiative

Skills and Competences

- > organizational skills
- > problem solving
- > teamwork
- > knowledge about social inclusion
- > knowledge about environmental benefits of reusing

How youngsters can get involved

Germany:

<https://leihbarbonn.de/en/> (<https://leihbarbonn.de/en/>)

Czech Republic:

<https://www.libraryofthings.cz/>
(<https://www.libraryofthings.cz/>)

Slovenia:

<https://knjiznicareci.si/> (<https://knjiznicareci.si/>)

Italy:

<https://leila-bologna.it/> (<https://leila-bologna.it/>)

Europe:

<https://lte.erasmus.site/> (<https://lte.erasmus.site/>)

UPCYCLING TEXTILES



@Wallace Chuck

Upcycling is different from recycling, as it doesn't require the destruction of the materials to create new ones. Instead, the materials are repurposed. A form of upcycled textiles is to manufacture products such as bags from used sails, kites, parachutes, tents, banners, airbags and plastic boats. Another practice is to use textile surplus from industries to create new clothing, as is the case with Mai Bine (Romania).

Country:

International (examples: Greece, Poland, Denmark, France, Romania)

Difficulty level:

Medium

Why?

Every day, we discard products that no longer serve their original purpose, creating waste of materials and of the resources used in the production, such as water and energy. A lot of objects end up in landfill, contaminating the soil and water sources, or are incinerated, resulting in CO₂ emission. Upcycling is a practice that uses creativity and technique to create new products with recuperated materials. As the material is not industrially transformed, upcycling requires less energy than recycling

How youngsters can get involved

Youngsters can replicate this initiative by following these steps:

- 1 Identify sources for used materials
- 2 Collect materials
- 3 Upcycle (designing the products, sewing)
- 4 Sell

Skills and Competences

- > upcycling
- > sewing
- > using tools
- > knowledge on different materials used to produce bags
- > design
- > creativity
- > innovative business models

How youngsters can get involved

Salty Bag (Greece):

<https://saltybag.com/> (<https://saltybag.com/>)

Rebago (Poland):

<https://www.rebago.com/> (<https://www.rebago.com/>)

Grünbag (Denmark):

<https://www.grunbag.eu/> (<https://www.grunbag.eu/>)

La Virgule (France):

<https://lavirgule.eco/> (<https://lavirgule.eco/>)

Mai Bine (Romania):

<https://www.maibine.eu/> (<https://www.maibine.eu/>)



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CIRCULAR ECONOMY