

Introduction of Circwaste project quality report

The subproject Circwaste was composed of several actors, including a steering group, the project team at the Helsinki Metropolitan Area Reuse Center, network workgroups, the network itself, and the monitoring by project funders. The project was initiated with an international study on emerging reuse networks in Europe conducted by RREUSE. Potential members for the network to be established were also approached through preliminary survey, which aimed to map the views and wishes of reuse operators regarding the future network's activities. The results of the study and the preliminary survey can be found on the Helsinki Metropolitan Area Reuse Center's project page ([https://www.kierratyskeskus.fi/tietoa/meista/hankkeet/circwaste - kohti kiertotaloutta](https://www.kierratyskeskus.fi/tietoa/meista/hankkeet/circwaste_-_kohti_kiertotaloutta)). Based on the international study, the key tasks of reuse sector networks were identified. These tasks include advocating for reuse issues in society, advancing collaboration through events, experiments, and projects, enhancing the quality of reuse, and operating as an umbrella organization overseeing the benefits of reuse and improving funding opportunities. Figure 1 summarizes observations from the initial survey, which was directed at Finnish reuse operators. The purpose of the initial survey was to inquire about the thoughts and opinions of industry players on what the upcoming reuse network should do and what its main tasks should be.

Preliminary survey, what ideas emerged

- **Activities:** Collaborative projects and experiments, sharing know-how, seminars, meetings, quality improvement, support/assistance, metrics, communication, tools, cooperation, demonstrating impact, terminology, digital platform.
- **Funding:** Public and project funding, membership fees, events, products, services.
- **Quality system:** Product group requirements, common metrics and measurement methods, communication quality/concepts, label/certification?, quality resources, a digital/real-time/flexible/evolving quality system, a quality system that fosters a shared vision.
- **Topics for societal discussion:** Environmental benefits, social benefits, economic benefits, required funding/support, volume potential, industry recognition, the flip side of neglect, promoting self-sufficiency for enhanced security?



Figure 1 Observations from the preliminary survey, thoughts of reuse operators on the network's tasks.

As a result of the quality work in the Circwaste project, the following was created:

- Calculation of resource savings from products directed toward reuse, with results on saved natural resources and avoided carbon dioxide emissions, along with guidelines for using the resource saving figure in a member's own communication.
- Reuse Barometer to generate industry information.
- Self-assessment model for reuse operators.
- Peer learning meetings.
- Consultative discussion service for those interested in developing reuse activities.
- Quality work annual calendar and self-assessment tool for organizations.
- National waste plan "Valtsu roundtable" activity.