

TAIEX-EIR PEER 2 PEER

‘Study Visit on setting up effective repair and re-use systems for a circular economy’

Organised in cooperation with

The Inter-Municipal Company AVV, Denmark

Bruxelles Environnement

Municipal Waste Europe

On 24 and 25 September 2018, the Danish inter-municipal waste management company AVV serving two Danish municipalities visited the City of Brussels and its surroundings under the framework of a **study visit on setting up effective repair and reuse systems**, granted by the TAIEX Peer-2-Peer EU Programme with the support of Municipal Waste Europe and Bruxelles Environnement.

The **Objective of this study visit** was for the Danish municipalities served by their waste management company AVV to learn from the Flemish and the Wallonian experience in waste prevention and the setting up of repair and re-use networks. The Flemish system that was studied is the network of ‘De Kringwinkel Televil’ and how it was set up, its relationship with the social sector and methodology. The Walloon re-use and repair system and how this prevents waste generation through the re-use of products was studied with the Walloon partner, ‘Les Petits Riens’.

On 24 September, AVV Board Members and Danish local politicians visited the facilities of ‘De Kringwinkel Televil’ (Vilvorde, the Flanders) where they had a brief discussion with the training and management staff, followed by a guided tour through the facilities. The **main conclusion** drawn up by the discussion and the tour is that the combination of environmental care and the employment of vulnerable groups on the labour market became possible through the alignment of the Flemish social economy policy (through the recruitment and training of low-skilled workers) and the Flemish environmental policy (through the incorporation of re-use activities and the re-use centres in the Flemish waste management policy). This alignment was important for the development and evolution of the re-use centres in Flanders.

In the afternoon of the same day, AVV Denmark visited the facilities of 'Les Petits Riens' (Anderlecht, Brussels), where they had a discussion with the management officer on their activities, the work method and the cooperation with the municipalities, followed by a short guided tour through their facilities. The **key outcome of this visit** is that the promotion of the re-use of products not only makes a high contribution to the prevention of waste generation in the Walloon region but also offers employment to individuals that have little or no access to a meaningful job in the regular labour market and combats poverty by offering inexpensive quality goods to people living on a limited budget.

On 25 September, AVV Denmark attended a joint meeting with the European Commission, Bruxelles Environnement, Public Service of Wallonia, OVAM and ACR+. The European Legal framework on re-use and waste prevention was presented by the European Commission, followed by short presentations of the waste management systems in general and the re-use activities in particular put in place in the Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels-City Regions.

Over these two days, staff of AVV and the waste management units of the two beneficiary municipalities that AVV serves learned about how to set up a repair and re-use network, how to hire staff from unemployment and with disabilities and to train them to repair and upcycle waste as well as the legal and administrative aspects of enabling permitting for such networks to be created in Denmark. They were also informed of the EU legal framework and how to set, communicate, and implement policies and activities that help them reach any waste prevention targets set.

The **expected outcome of the study visit** is that the learnings will be taken back to Denmark by the beneficiaries and translated into action. AVV intends to replicate the repair and re-use networks for all relevant Danish waste streams in their municipalities and to adapt and implement the waste prevention strategies and methodologies that they learned during the study visit.

Municipal Waste Europe AISBL

Secretariat General