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GREEN JOBS THROUGH PREPARATION FOR REUSE: SI.FOR SEMINAR "VALORIZZARE CONVIENE!"

Encouraging job creation and vocational training through preparation for re-use i.e the re-introduction of products and materials on the market initially considered waste, was at the heart of discussions at the Fare i Conti Con l'Ambiente, the largest Italian event dedicated to environmental protection.

Currently Italian legislation does not support preparation for re-use activities. Only last year, the **first certified re-use centre in Italy was opened** by a social cooperative in Vicenza. Elsewhere in Europe, including France and Belgium, tens to hundreds of re-use centres already exist.



Exchanges with European partners, which were facilitated through the EU funded SIFOR project, has allowed the development of a better understanding of how to run re-use operations relating to WEEE, textiles and furniture on a professional basis such as the hygienisation of

textile products, re-engineering of bulky items, refurbishment of WEEE, traceability systems of products handled by a re-use centres etc. The importance of the industrial process and organisation of the sorting logistics, repair activities, sales, and after sales services of products which are prepared for re-use was also discussed in order to encourage consumers to also trust the service.

Concerning legislation, **EU legislation can help better define objectives for preparation for re-use** such as setting separate targets away from recycling, and ensuring access to the waste stream for re-use centres.

Regarding qualifications, it was strongly suggested that the **professional profile of a ‘valorizator’**, a tailored professional who could manage the full re-use cycle, **should become part of a comprehensive professional qualification related to waste management**. Such a move would allow flexibility to work in the re-use sector as well as promotion of green jobs on the other.

Finally it was made very clear that in order for preparation for re-use to flourish in Italy, it is essential that dialogue and cooperation is improved and maintained between all actors in the chain, from local authorities, waste management companies, social enterprises, producers, research institutes and consumers.

NEW INSTRUMENTS FROM EUROPE TO FAVOUR JOB CREATION IN THE WASTE SECTOR

Italian Cooperatives and their scientific partners have started to **test and implement best practices developed in France** relating to process management, training and quality in the field of WEEE preparation for re-use. The original systems have been developed by French partner Envie, who have been operating in **WEEE re-use and recycling for the past 30 years and annually collect over 20% of WEEE generated in France**.

In particular three training and management systems of Envie were looked at in more depth and experimented with in Italy: SIRHE, SYSPEO and Training on the job.

- The “SIRHE system” **controls and assesses the progress of staff who are on insertion contracts** (workers who are legally seen as disadvantaged in some way). It focuses on assessing the progress of a workers capacity to improve their skills over time relating to technical, linguistic and social attributes. It follows the persons progress from their first interview until final insertion in the open labour market.

- “Training on the job” **enables workers to learn and proceed independently and safely in the field of WEEE repair and refurbishment** via an interactive touch screen system. By doing so not only can the person learn a new skill but they can also control the quality of the activity they have carried out. The system also supports quality assurance testing which allows a guarantee to be given on every appliance put back on the market.

- Lastly, “SYSPEO” **ensures traceability of quantities of waste electronics that are “prepared for re-use”**. By the means of data gathering/management of data, it allows the traceability of every phase of the preparation for re-use process, from initial inspections, to stockpiling in warehouses, repair and refurbishment, sales and after sales. By adapting the above solutions to an Italian context it is hoped that better strategies for the growth of social enterprises active in preparation for re-use will be identified.

EU COMMISSION PUBLISHES GREEN GROWTH PACKAGE

The European Commission published its [Green Growth Package](#) last week, which contains a [revision](#) to parts of the Waste Framework, Landfill and Packaging Directives (notably the targets). The proposal will now come under the scrutiny of the European Parliament and national governments (EU Council).

As part of the Green Growth package, The Commission's DG Employment issued a [communication on Green jobs](#) and outlined possible measures about how to support green growth which includes a section on how to support the development of social enterprises active in re-use repair and recycling (p.10)

CORRECTION OF PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

Following the publication of an article entitled "SIFOR explores IT re-use in Ireland" within the last SIFOR newsletter (sent 14/6/2014), the company facilities which were photographed and visited by the SIFOR partners were those of **Rehab Recycle** and not RECOSI. To find out more about Rehab Recycle, visit <http://www.rehabrecycle.ie/>

We sincerely apologise for any confusion or inconvenience caused.

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