

*Έκθεση / Report*  
***State-of-the-Art Report***  
***New Policy Framework at national and EU level***

*Supplementary Document*  
*Action A.1:*  
*State-of-the-Art Report*



  
**ReWeee**

LIFE Project Number  
**LIFE14 ENV/GR/000858**

**November 2020**

## Επισκόπηση της υφιστάμενης κατάστασης (Δράση Α.1)

### Data Project

<b>Project location</b>	Greece, Belgium
<b>Project start date:</b>	01/01/2016
<b>Project end date:</b>	30/11/2020
<b>Total budget</b>	2.161.405€
<b>EC contribution:</b>	1.247.300€
<b>(%) of eligible costs</b>	60 %

### Data Beneficiary

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CEAP	Circular Economy Action Plan
EC	European Commission
EEE	Electrical and Electronic Equipment
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

## 1. Introduction

In 2017, in the framework of the EU LIFE RE-WEEE project (full title: “Development and Demonstration of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Prevention and Reuse Paradigms – LIFE14 ENV/GR/000858), a report on the State-of-the-Art of WEEE prevention and preparing for reuse was produced. The report consisted of three (3) parts:

### I. The identification of initiatives and good practices in EE-28

The first part presented more than twenty (20) WEEE prevention and preparing for reuse activities (initiatives, practices) that have been employed in Greece and at EU level until June 2016. Depending on the data availability, the activities have been evaluated upon environmental, economic and social criteria, such as their diversion potential, the reuse percentage, the difficulty of their implementation, their impact on the citizen’s behaviours, and the number of jobs created. During the investigation of the aforementioned activities, it became obvious that Greece was lacking such as initiatives, indicating the necessity for the implementation of the B Actions of the LIFE REWEE project. Three main obstacles for the implementation of the WEEE preparing for reuse actions were highlighted: the “poor” collection systems, the restricted access to WEEE and the obsolescence (technological, style, planned).

### II. The investigation of legislative facilitators and barriers, at national and EU level

The second part of the State-of-the Art Report involved the investigation, evaluation and presentation of legislation facilitators and barriers at national and EU level. In order to analyse the current situation, approximately fifty (50) interviews (questionnaires) were taken and a desk study (review of more than forty (40) articles and reports) was held. The analysis of collected data indicated four categories of barriers for the implementation of EEE reuse or WEEE preparing for reuse actions: 1. Lack of legislation regarding the provision of access to adequate quantity and quality of WEEE, 2. Insufficient regulation for the integration of the informal recycling sector, 3. Inadequate legislation about the improvement of Electrical and Electronic Equipment design to enhance repairability and upgradability, and 4. Lack of economic incentives.

### III. The recording of the available economic instruments, that promote the WEEE reuse and the preparing for reuse

The third part of the report, i.e. the recording of the available economic instruments, facilitated the exploitation of the available data towards the development of more effective tools. Although various of instruments were presented, special emphasis was given on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems, due to their high effectiveness and importance in WEEE management. The investigation of economic instruments that have been applied to promote EEE reuse and WEEE preparing for reuse, highlighted the role of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Individual Responsibility. The implementation of EPR

policies in the EU facilitates both data collection in a structured and relatively organized manner not only for WEEE recycling but also for preparing for reuse activities.

Since the delivery of the “State-of-the-Art Report” (September 2017), new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) has formed at EU level, while a new policy framework regarding waste prevention, waste recycling and the Circular Economy is being formulated at National level. More specifically, on 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, the European Commission released the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), in support of the European Green Deal.

This report is a supplementary document to the “State-of-the-Art Report”, presenting the long-term sustainability of the LIFE RE-WEEE project under the lens of the new policy landscape. Furthermore, it abridges the key messages that the project conveys to policy makers, at both EU and national level.

## 2. The new Circular Economy Action Plan – “Circular Electronics Initiative”

On 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, the European Commission released one of the main pillars of the European Green Deal, the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP). In contrast to the former Action Plan, which was focused on sector-specific incentives, the CEAP announces initiatives along the entire life cycle of products, with ultimate goals to promote circular economy processes, sustainable production and consumption, and retain resources in the EU economy for as long as possible. CEAP introduces legislative and non-legislative measures to achieve real added values.

One of the most promising announcements of CEAP is the “Circular Electronics Initiative”, which is anticipated to promote longer product lifetimes. Through the CEAP the Commission will target the establishment of a new “right to repair” for products and contemplate “horizontal material rights for consumers” (i.e. availability of spare parts, access to repair, upgradeability). For first time measures for repairability and recyclability will be introduced or mobilized, contributing to circular economy objectives by improving the life span, maintenance, re-use, upgrade, recyclability and waste handling of appliances.

Furthermore, the “Circular Electronics Initiative” aims at “improving the collection and treatment of WEEE including exploring options for an EU-wide take back scheme to return or sell back old mobile phones, tablets and chargers”, which is a crucial step for preserving the reuse potential of unwanted, yet functional or reusable EEE. According to RREUSE (2020), if such take-back system can safeguard the reusability of WEEE and provide reuse operators with access to reusable goods from the waste stream, it could be a promising proposal.

### 3. The long-term sustainability of the LIFE RE-WEEE project

According to statistical data of 2015 (EUROSTAT), it is estimated that in EU approximately 2% of the WEEE collected gets prepared for reuse. In parallel, one of the main pillars of the Green Deal, the new EU Circular Economy Plan, presents the forthcoming “Circular Electronics Initiative”, which will promote, among other actions, longer product lifetimes, but does not set specific quantitative targets for preparing for reuse.

The new CEAP can serve as a powerful means for the effective transition of EU towards a Circular Economy (RREUSE, 2020). It is a promising tool for addressing some of the barriers / obstacles that were identified through the elaboration of the “State-of-the -Art Report” of the LIFE RE-WEEE project (i.e. the “poor” collection systems, the restricted access to WEEE and the obsolescence, lack of legislation regarding the provision of access to adequate quantity and quality of WEEE, inadequate legislation about the improvement of Electrical and Electronic Equipment design to enhance repairability and upgradability).

On that ground, the main objectives of the LIFE RE-WEEE project (Table 1) are valid more than ever. The outcomes and the gained knowledge of the implementation of the LIFE RE-WEEE project, create a solid and well-grounded foundation for the implementation of the National Circular Economy Strategy. Vice versa, the new policy landscape surpasses some of the legislative barriers and enhances the long-term sustainability of the project, and its objectives.

**Table 1:** *The objectives of the LIFE RE-WEEE project.*

<b>I. Set -up and integrate preparing for reuse activities within WEEE management</b>
<b>II. Develop specifications and technical requirements based on Best Available Techniques (BAT) for the entire “preparation for reuse” cycle, to be adopted by the relevant regulatory body (HRA), to facilitate permitting and assure quality of UEEE and prepare recommendations for policy measures, at all relevant levels- retailer management, local authority, national and EU legislation.</b>
<b>III. Develop reliable tools, at the EU level, for the accurate measurement of WEEE reuse and preparation for reuse that would facilitate the relevant discussion for target setting;</b>
<b>IV. Assess the level of WEEE reuse in Greece, before and after the project intervention, using these tools;</b>
<b>V. Investigate and improve public attitudes towards EEE prevention (donation and repair) and reuse (i.e. acceptance of second hand markets);</b>
<b>VI. Promote WEEE prevention culture in Greece;</b>

The main objectives of the LIFE RE-WEEE project are in compliance with the three main blocks of CEAP, regarding (W)EEE:

- The design and production of EEE based on new regulations, which promotes environmentally friendly appliances, in terms of energy consumption, repairability, upgradeability and reuse potential
- Setting priorities in WEEE management, with special focus on prevention of WEEE
- Exploitation of secondary materials retrieved from WEEE.

The LIFE RE-WEEE consortium envisions to contribute to the successful implementation of the LIFE-IP CEI – Greece “Implementation of Circular Economy in Greece”, as well as to meeting the requirements of the new National Plan for Waste Management 2020-2030 (ΕΣΔΑ 2020-2030). The LIFE RE-WEEE project demonstrated the potential for preparing for reuse in Greece. The two SCs can serve as two different paradigms of preparing for reuse schemes, the operation principles of which can be transferred and replicated for the establishment of similar infrastructures all over Greece.

#### 4. Key messages to policy makers

The outcomes of the implementation of the LIFE RE-WEEE project provide the policy makers at EU and national level with key messages. More specifically:

- The LIFE RE-WEEE project contributed to the amendment of legislation concerning the environmental authorization of Sorting Centers. Also, it contributed to the development of the legislative framework regarding the spatial planning of such facilities.
- The integrated methodology for the quantification of preparing for reuse, which was developed during the implementation of the LIFE RE-WEEE project may serve as a useful tool for the reporting requirements of the EU-Member States, and contribute to the establishment of preparing -for reuse targets.
- Standardization of the Technical Specifications developed within the LIFE RE-WEEE project implementation.
- Flexibility to the EU -Member States to adjust the technical specifications for preparing for reuse activities to their conditions
- Availability of the prevention and repair guides, which were produced by the LIFE RE-WEEE project, to the EU citizens.
- Promotion of economic incentives, such as VAT facilitation for EEE reuse and repair activities.



## 5. Βιβλιογραφία

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