

UPNOWASTE – WP2

Activity 3: Preparation of common methodology for reuse/recycling

Best practices template and guidelines

The aim of this template is to have a common structure for a best practice about reuse/recycle of materials selected in the previous project activity “Analysing Reuse/Recycling Activities of Materials”. Each partner will research and find two examples from its local community or at national level according to this table:

- ULE: wood
- ULE: plastic
- TREBAG: paper
- ITI: metals
- GEA: textile
- GL: glass
- UMT: electronics

From the examples selected, a report with a common methodology for reuse/recycling of any material will be drafted.

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE #1

Combination ID	028
Country	Italy
Type of material	Wood
Organization / Institution / Association	Università delle LiberEtà del FVG – ETS (ULE)
Title / Name of the activity	“Creative Wood Reuse Workshop” of Legambiente
Abstract	<p>Legambiente promotes participatory workshops on creative wood reuse, often as part of environmental education or urban regeneration projects. These workshops involve citizens, schools, and local communities in transforming waste wood (pallets, discarded furniture, crates) into street furniture, benches, planters, and furnishings for public spaces.</p> <p>.</p>
Keywords	Creative reuse of wood
Objectives	<p>The aim of these workshops is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote a culture of reuse and reduce wood waste. - Encourage active participation and social inclusion through shared workshops. - Enhance the manual and creative skills of local residents. - Improve the quality of urban spaces through sustainable interventions. <p>.</p>
Methodology	<p>“Creative reuse” is achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of reclaimed wood from markets, construction sites, and local businesses, checking

	<p>its health and condition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical training for participants on safety techniques, woodworking, and finishing with natural products. - Participatory design, with co-design sessions to create functional objects and enhance local creativity. - Practical workshop, where participants, guided by expert craftsmen, create objects for public spaces or institutions. - Return to the community with inaugurations and awareness-raising events on the importance of reuse and the circular economy.
<p>Technological requirements / Tools needed</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hand tools and power tools (saws, drills, sanders). 2. Natural finishing materials (linseed oil, beeswax). 3. Personal protective equipment (gloves, goggles, masks).
<p>Why is this reuse/ recycle action considered good practice?</p>	<p>This reuse initiative is a good practice because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The activity produces real, functional objects (benches, planters, street furniture) that can be integrated into public spaces, improving the urban environment and the quality of life of the communities involved. -The project actively involves citizens of all ages, schools, associations, and disadvantaged groups, promoting social inclusion and intergenerational exchange, which are key aspects of community best practices. - It uses wood waste that would otherwise be destined for disposal, reducing waste and environmental impact and contributing to a circular economy model. -The methodology is clear, easy to adopt, and adaptable to different territorial contexts, even with limited resources, promoting the dissemination and multiplication of the model. -The workshop values creativity and local traditions, creating a sense of belonging and

	responsibility towards the territory.
Additional information (website, contact, references, etc.)	https://www.legambiente.it

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE #2

Combination ID	029
Country	Italy
Type of material	Wood
Organization/Institution /Association	Università delle LiberEtà del FVG – ETS (ULE)
Title / Name of the activity	Reclaimed wood in Repair Cafés – “L'Officina del Riuso” (The Reuse Workshop)
Abstract	Some Italian Repair Cafés (e.g., Turin, Varese, Bergamo) include among their activities the upcycling of wood from discarded furniture, shutters, and old doors to create furniture for the neighborhood (benches, bulletin boards, shelves) and/or objects for the home or public spaces (bicycle racks, planters).
Keywords	Sustainability and waste reduction
Objectives	The aim of these Italian repair cafés is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide environmental education, active citizenship, social inclusion, and informal learning

	<p>- reduce waste, promote craftsmanship, stimulate creativity, and encourage independence</p>
<p>Methodology</p>	<p>- Collection and selection of discarded movable materials, pallets, crates, fixtures, carpentry scraps. - Analysis and diagnosis of the object - Decision on the course of action Three methodological options: 1. Functional repair 2. Creative reuse (upcycling) 3. Disassembly for reuse of components. - Documentation and traceability - Return and sharing</p>
<p>Technological requirements / Tools needed</p>	<p>Basic hand tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammer, pliers • Screwdrivers (flat and Phillips) • Wood files and rasps • Hand saw (straight or back saw) • Square and ruler • Clamps to hold pieces in place <p>Portable power tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill/screwdriver with wood bits • Orbital or belt sander • Jigsaw (for curved cuts or small pieces) <p>Materials and consumables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screws, nails, wooden dowels • Fine and coarse sandpaper • Vinyl glue for woodworking • Natural dyes, impregnating agents, oils, or beeswax for eco-friendly finishes • Pieces of reclaimed wood (old furniture, pallets, beams, boards) <p>Personal protective equipment (PPE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work gloves • Dust mask • Safety goggles • Non-slip mat for workbench
<p>Why is this reuse/ recycle action considered good practice?</p>	<p>This activity is a best practice because: -It reduces waste production by reusing wooden objects destined for landfill. -It promotes a culture of repair, countering planned obsolescence. Knowledge is passed down from generation to generation (e.g., retirees teaching young people).</p>

Additional information (website, contact, references, etc.)	https://www.repaircafe.org/en/
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BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE #3

Combination ID	003
Country	Italy
Type of material	Plastic
Organization/Institution /Association	Università delle LiberEtà del FVG – ETS (ULE)
Title / Name of the activity	Creative plastic reuse workshops
Abstract	This practice involves educational and community workshops where waste plastic (bottles, containers, etc.) is collected and transformed manually into useful or decorative objects, without the use of machinery. It is widespread in many environmental education contexts..
Keywords	Creative reuse
Objectives	<p>The objectives of these workshops are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To promote environmental awareness and a culture of reuse among citizens and students. -To reduce the amount of plastic sent to landfill or incineration. -To stimulate creativity and manual skills through practical activities.

Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Collection and sorting of clean, separated plastic. -Manual cleaning and preparation of materials. -Cutting, assembly, and decoration with scissors, eco-friendly glue, adhesive tape, wire, or string. -Creation of objects such as vases, pen holders, bags, decorations, woven plastic fabrics, and educational games. -Raising awareness through training sessions and discussions.
Technological requirements / Tools needed	<p>Scissors, craft knife, hot glue or eco-friendly glue, adhesive tape, wire, markers, and non-toxic paints.</p>
Why is this reuse/ recycle action considered good practice?	<p>Creative plastic reuse workshops are a good practice because they combine environmental sustainability, social empowerment, and concrete replicability, in line with European priorities. They represent an effective, accessible, and engaging way to promote the circular economy in communities.</p>
Additional information (website, contact, references, etc.)	<p>https://plasticfreeonlus.it</p>

BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE #4

Combination ID	<p>004</p>
Country	<p>Italy</p>
Type of material	<p>Plastic</p>
Organization/Institution /Association	<p>Università delle LiberEtà del FVG – ETS (ULE)</p>
Title / Name of the activity	<p>Network for the exchange and reuse of household plastic materials</p>

Abstract	This exchange network consists of a local network of citizens who exchange or collect waste plastic materials for direct reuse, without any mechanical processing, only through manual or craft activities.
Keywords	Direct reuse
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Avoid the production of new plastic items by reducing demand for raw materials. -Promote solidarity and collaboration among citizens. -Stimulate forms of circular economy at the local level.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Creation of collection points in shops, markets, or community centres. -Direct exchange or “markets” for reusable plastic items, such as containers, pots, boxes, and toys. -Organization of regular meetings with demonstrations of manual reuse techniques (e.g., bottle weaving, making decorative objects). <p>Promotion of awareness campaigns on creative reuse.</p>
Technological requirements / Tools needed	No mechanical means: use of hands, scissors, glue, string, fabric for assembly and decoration.
Why is this reuse/ recycle action considered good practice?	<p>The network for exchanging and reusing household plastic is a good practice because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -it activates the community in a sustainable and collaborative process, -it creates connections between citizens, schools, artisans, and recycling centres, -it promotes waste reduction and a culture of reuse in a replicable, accessible, and socially innovative way.
Additional information (website, contact, references, etc.)	Similar models have been documented in reality as Transition Towns or local solidarity economy projects in Italy and Europe.

Example: “Plastic reuse and exchange network” active in some self-managed communities in Trentino and Tuscany.

Information available on Transition Italia websites:
<https://transitionitalia.net>