



'Greennovation' meets skills anticipation: policy lessons for making the green transition happen

**14th Cedefop Brussels seminar Monday 19 June 2023, 10.00-11.00
(CET) Virtual event**

Simone Schirru, Policy Officer (Social and Economic Policies)

simone.schirru@rreuse.org



RREUSE is the international network representing social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling.



Picture credit: De Kringwinkel (1, 2,4) AERESS (3) Humana Nova (5)

RREUSE MEMBER IMPACT 2021

Environmental

Social

Economic

1,200,000
tonnes of waste
collected

1,000
social enterprises
within the wider
network

1,100,000,000
EUR turnover
of all activities

230,000
tonnes of goods
re-used locally

105,000
employees,
volunteers and
trainees

32,500,000
customers in
2,300
second-hand shops

100,000
EU citizens' CO2 emissions
avoided through re-use

70
jobs created per 1,000 tonnes
of waste collected with
a view of being re-used



RREUSE supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
RREUSE members activities allow us to accomplish the following SDGs of
the 2030 Agenda, launched by the UN in the framework of the United Nations
Development Programme. Read more about our concrete contribution here.

RREUSE MEMBER IMPACT 2021

Environmental

Social

Economic

1,200,000
tonnes of waste
collected

1,000
social enterprises
within the wider
network

1,100,000,000
EUR turnover
of all activities

230,000
tonnes of goods
re-used locally

105,000
employees,
volunteers and
trainees

32,500,000
customers in
2,300
second-hand shops

100,000
EU citizens' CO2 emissions
avoided through re-use

70
jobs created per 1,000 tonnes
of waste collected with
a view of being re-used



RREUSE supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
RREUSE members activities allow us to accomplish the following SDGs of
the 2030 Agenda, launched by the UN in the framework of the United Nations
Development Programme. Read more about our concrete contribution here.

Innovative approach to skills development

Where...

- A throwaway culture has replaced traditional practices of re-use and repair.
- Needed manual skills required for the green transition are now in decline.



- **Social enterprises** have been active in the circular economy for decades, helping preserve circular skills by using **reuse and repair activities as vehicles** to create job and training opportunities **for the most vulnerable.**

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES' CONTRIBUTION TO
CIRCULAR SKILLS OPEN TO ALL

Preservation of
circular skills

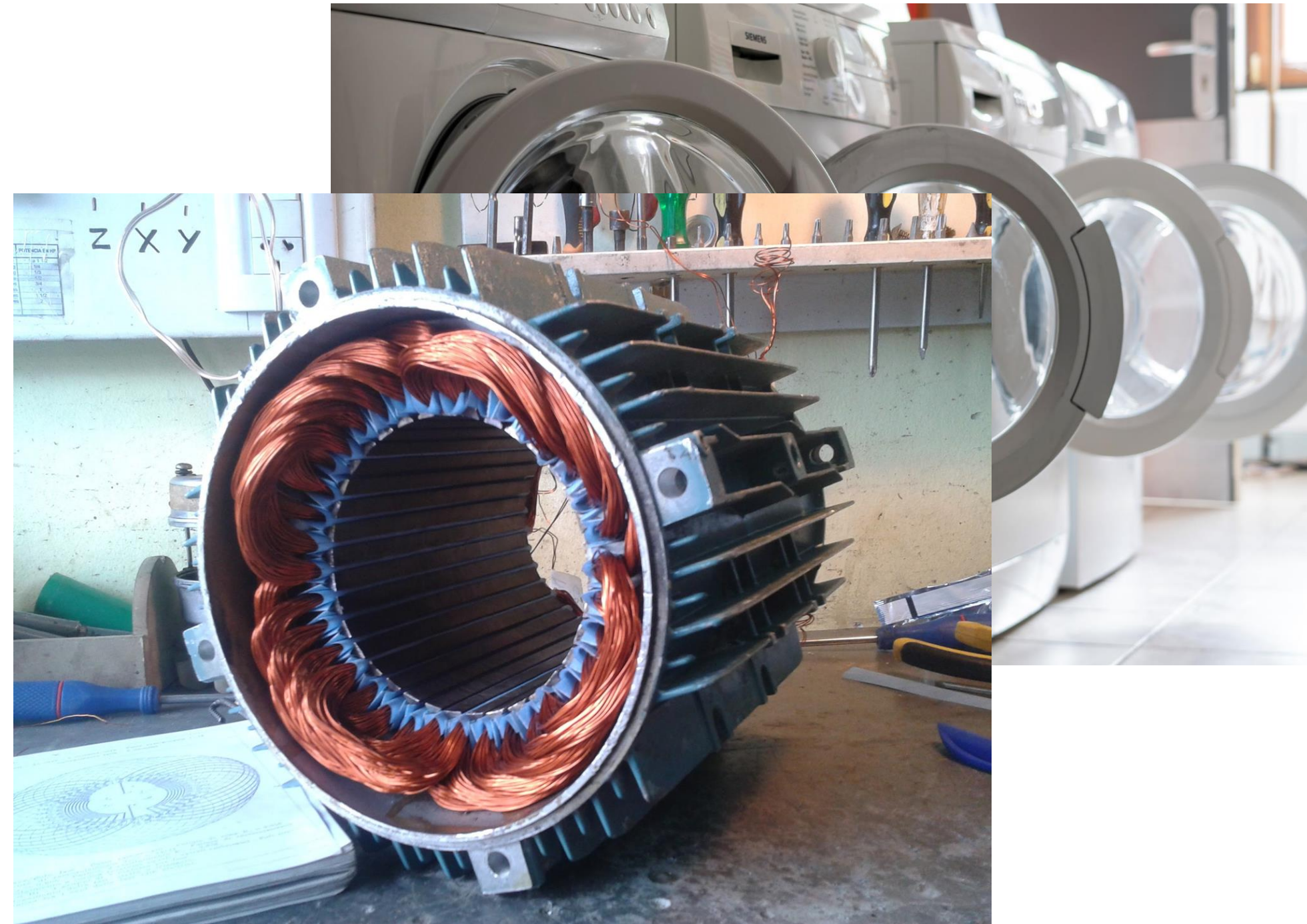
Work-based
training
opportunities

Adapted training
and personalised
support

Preservation of circular skills

LE HUBLLOT (Belgium) – WINDING OF COPPER WIRES OF AN ENGINE

- **Main expertise in the repair of electrical appliances** (washing machines, dishwashers, and so forth)
- **Only centre in Wallonia with expertise in the repair of the winding of copper wires that connect components of electrical engines.**
- **Transferable skills (also applicable to industries such wind turbines, trams, etc.).**
- **Currently cheaper to buy a new electrical engine when it can be repaired.**



DEAF ENTERPRISES (Ireland) – REUPHOLSTERY OF FURNITURE

- Ireland's only dedicated employer of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.
- Preserve traditional skills such as **upholstery of furniture.**
- **Bicycle repair**, ability to inspect the overall condition of a bicycle, diagnose and repair mechanical problems.



Work-based
training
opportunities

ROSCOMMON WOMEN'S NETWORK (Ireland) – CYCLEUP

PROGRAMME

- Started from scratch a training programme for **all women** in the upcycling of textiles.
- Final deliverable - **complete 2 upcycled items from scratch.**
- Hands-on approach ensuring that participants **learn all the practical skills required in the sector.**



ZIEDINE EKONOMIKA (Lithuania) – ASSESSING THROUGH WORKSHOPS

- Organises workshops for unemployed people with disabilities for textile and furniture-related circular skills.
- Individual training plan and workshops at the core of training.
- Partnerships with the private sector, allowing participants to spend a day on the ground and understand of potential job roles.



Adapted
training and
personalised
support

BAUKARUSSELL (Austria) - CERTIFICATION OF SKILLS

- A short and focused programme to **train on the construction sector** created with the needs of disadvantaged individuals in mind.
- Participants will familiarise with **safe deconstruction and demolition practices**, such as the use of proper tools and safety gear, and the appropriate disposal of hazardous material, **which requires both theoretical and practical training.**



BauKarussell

HUMANA NOVA (Croatia) – CREATING A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

- **Individual work plans. Rotation through different workplaces** and after 2 months, assessment of skills.
- Social workers providing support in **strengthening self-confidence, trust, and tolerance** via personalised support.
- **Monthly informal meetings and communal activities** to create a safe and supportive environment.



HumanaNOVA

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES' CONTRIBUTION TO
CIRCULAR SKILLS OPEN TO ALL

Preservation of
circular skills

Work-based
training
opportunities

Adapted training
and personalised
support

Digital skills training to vulnerable individuals to improve their employability and social inclusion

Many social enterprises provide digital skills training to vulnerable individuals to improve their employability and social inclusion.

Examples of transferable skills:

- Basic digital skills such as **browsing the internet, creating, and using an email account, and using spreadsheets** are essential for anyone seeking employment.

They also have an impact in the personal life of individuals (e.g. contacting family members that live far away) which is often one of the most biggest motivators.

- In some cases, **specific and more advanced digital skills are essential in the re-use sector**: route planning for the collection of reusable goods, online reviews of resale value, inventory control systems, or e-commerce, among others.



Policy lessons from RREUSE:

Foster demand for circular skills across sectors. This would allow for more green job opportunities, including for people within social enterprises that already gained valuable circular transferable skills.

Ensure integration of social enterprises within labour market policy. Recognise the role of social enterprises as training providers.

Foster partnerships between social economy enterprises and the public and private sector, including VET providers.

Addressing lack of data on the social economy. This should include to address capacity and skills gaps within the circular economy.

POLICY LESSONS

More flexible approach in skills recognition to facilitate skill certification: part-time qualifications, skills passports and/or low-skilled qualifications to foster a work-based and inclusive approach on skills promotion.

Raise visibility of ESF+ and other funding schemes at the national level that support the skills work of social enterprises.

Promoting initiatives to adapt academic curricula to reflect green social entrepreneurship concepts. This would also allow to involve the youth in social entrepreneurship.

Expand national and EU classifications of skills, qualifications, and occupations (e.g. ESCO) to include all repair and re-use skills of the circular economy.

New RREUSE report: Putting people and skills at the core of the circular economy.

- 18 case studies from social enterprises of the wider RREUSE network.
- Raise visibility and ensure higher recognition of members' work as inclusive adult learning and lifelong learning opportunity providers.
- Highlights policy opportunities and challenges in setting up training programmes, coming from the members that took part in the report.

Available in the RREUSE website and in the chat.



THANK YOU.

Simone Schirru,
Policy Officer in Social and Economic
Policies

simone.schirru@rreuse.org

