

D.T1.1.3 DECISION MATRIX

Summary report

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1. Introduction

The driving aim of SURFACE project is to promote the smart re-use parks in Central Europe to elevate the waste management to higher environmental and social dimensions with integrating separate re-use related actions into one premise in urban environment.

To achieve this goal, important deliverable of the project is a Decision Matrix (DM) assigned to scatter the built-up knowledge and know-how for a wider implementation of smart re-use park concepts throughout in and outside the Central European territory. According to the application form, the DM is supposed “*providing guidance about selection criteria to be adopted in order to combine/adopt/modify/fertilize Regional Re-Use Fact Sheet*”.

The DM is substantially based on the experiments of project partners having dedicated Functional Urban Areas (FUA). Unfolding and sharing their opinion and expertise are important for a common thinking.

2. Introducing the survey for Decision Matrix

In favour of the reason above, a survey was developed in cooperation with project partners for the widest consensus on guiding principles of Smart Re-use Parks (SRP). The survey comprises 8 categorized questions with predefined answers with marking from 1-5 at discrete steps of 1. The concerned categories are:

1. Legislation
2. Private Business
3. State Subsidy
4. Socio-Economy Aspects
5. Public Awareness
6. Smart Re-use Park Implementation Potential
7. Demand on Second-hand Items
8. Supply on Second-hand Items

The eight questions are then followed by three additional questions on implementation, where the answers here are also predefined with “Yes” or “No” options. For every question a free text cell is offered for making remarks and amendments.

In fact the predefined answers may inhere certain limitations on making the most precise answers, however for an easier comparison and common understanding the answers from different partners it can be considered the most proper option.

All questions have got a hint aiming common perception, as well as short description on all optional answers (grades). Every project partner having FUA were asked to apply the questions specifically to their FUA and fill in accordingly. Their answers are then presented automatically in an excel spider web diagram for an easier review and comparison. So, overall we had 9 complete surveys at the end.

The individual surveys have already been compiled into one table and each of them is supposed to form the columns of the Decision Matrix.



The following chapters are intended to introduce the survey in details and the answers from partners (in annex)¹.

2.1. Legislation

Question: What is the attitude to re-use related activities in your country (or FUA, if there are any special regulations) by legislative aspect?

Description: *The EU member states are obliged to implement the related environmental related directives and regulations into their national legislation. But beyond this obligation, they can initiate programmes and actions on their own. The question refers to this attitude of your government in the field of re-use: whether they consider it an important issue putting into focus, or just one of many other issues to deal with.*

Vote 1 if you consider this attitude fully passive and 5 if there are additional initiatives beyond the mandatory ones (fully supportive).

Answering options:

- 1 - Fully passive, there is no regulation concerning re-use on wider scope (indirect regulation)
- 2 - Some indirect, but not relevant measures on re-use, delays in fulfilling the obligations
- 3 - The things are going forward uneasily, however general, re-use related obligations are fulfilled
- 4 - Things are generally going well; the re-use related obligations are fulfilled
- 5 - There are proactive actions beyond the fulfilled obligations

2.2. Private business

Question: What is the rate of private share in making business out of the re-use activity?

Description: *The activities related to re-use can be run on solely as a private business (i.e. second hand shops, maintenance service on preparing for re-use). The ratio of private participation in re-use business depends on the market measures and conditions varying from country to country. With your answer, please estimate the presence of private actors: vote 1 if you consider that there is no private share at all and 5 if it is fully dominant by private stakeholders.*

Answering options:

- 1 - No private share in re-use business at all
- 2 - The sector is mainly dominant by governmental organisations
- 3 - The private share in re-use business is minor, but considerable
- 4 - The private share in re-use business is dominant
- 5 - The re-use business is fully run by private share

¹ The proper and valid status of the given answers belongs under the responsibilities of each partner. The survey reflects the partner's assumptions.



2.3. State subsidy

Question: Are financial subsidy options from the government available for preparing re-use activity as part of the general waste management?

Description: *The countries are making different actions for implementing the commitments taken under the EU membership and also proactively on their own to improve their overall environmental performance. These actions are often needs financial efforts. The question refers to the financial subsidy for key re-use activities within dedicated programmes and calls. The key re-use activities are the ones falling into the main scope of a Smart Reuse Park, i.e.:*

- *Deployment of infrastructure: purchasing site, equipment;*
- *Actions on environmental raising awareness, especially on re-use: education, PR campaigns, presentations, exhibitions;*
- *Social aims: employment, distribution of refurbished products.*

Vote 1 if there is no financial subsidy for re-use activities at all and 5 if there are financial sources with high impact potential. Please evaluate this potential from its significance on making relevant steps towards the SRP concept.

Answering options:

- 1 - No governmental subsidy for supporting re-use related activities
- 2 - There are some indirect, but not significant financial supports
- 3 - There are only few direct/indirect financial support, but not significant
- 4 - There are many direct/indirect financial support, but not significant
- 5 - There are some direct/indirect, but significant financial supports

2.4. Socio-economy aspects

Question: Are there any socio-economic enterprises linked to general waste management activities, especially for re-use?

Description: *In EU countries the environmental and socio-economic aims are often the matters of a symbiotic combination, i.e. employment of long-term unemployed people in preparing for re-use activities offering them education and work experience. The aim of the question is to reveal similar actions in your country.*

Please vote 1 if there is no such actions at all and 5 if there are more actions dedicated to re-use and also with other priorities.

Answering options:

- 1 - There is no social programme even indirectly linked to general waste management and re-use activities
- 2 - There is one or more social programmes indirectly linked to general waste management
- 3 - There are more social programmes, and at least one with indirect relation to re-use
- 4 - There is one or more social programmes linked directly to general waste management
- 5 - There is one or more social programmes linked directly to re-use



2.5. Public awareness

Question: What is the extent of public awareness on preparing for re-use activity?

Description: *The success of re-use related actions are highly depending on the public recognition. The acceptance on re-use activities, including donating and/or buying re-usable items can have negative or positive impressions.*

Please assess the dominant opinion of the society in your country regarding re-use, whether they completely refuse (1) or are being devoted (5) to re-use.

Answering options:

- 1 - The public considers re-use as completely negative initiative
- 2 - The public dominantly refuses the re-use initiatives
- 3 - The consideration of re-use is neutral
- 4 - The public dominantly positive with re-use initiatives
- 5 - The public is fully devoted to re-use initiatives

2.6. SRP implementation potential

Question: Are there any existing activities or infrastructure in your FUA related to SRP (i.e. guidelines, know-how on re-use, refurbishment, education, re-use centres or networks)?

Description: *Please assess the level of achievements (former or ongoing re-use activities, studies on implementing re-use, education, etc.) in your country on the field of re-use towards an SRP: vote 1 if there is nothing to apply and 5 if there are many existing blocks including re-use centers, or networks to combine into an SRP.*

Answering options:

- 1 - There is no existing SRP related activity at all
- 2 - There are only few, but indirect re-use related initiatives
- 3 - There are several, but indirect re-use related initiatives
- 4 - There are few re-use related initiatives directly linked to SRP
- 5 - There are relevant activities that can be applied within an SRP



2.7. Demand potential on second-hand items

Question: What is the level of need on reusable second-hand items?

Description: Please assess the public interest on buying second-hand items. Is the use of second-hand items are accepted or appreciated rather negatively?

Vote 1 if there is no interest on using second-hand items and 5 if there is a high interest on it, even using second hand items are fully accepted.

Answering options:

- 1 - There is no demand on using second-hand item at all
- 2 - There is a minimal interest, but not relevant
- 3 - There is a massive interest, but also the negative public opinion is significant
- 4 - There is a minor, but still significant negative acceptance on second-hand items
- 5 - Using second-hand items are broadly accepted, there is no negative public opinion on that

2.8. Supply potential on second-hand items

Question: What is the supply potential on reusable second-hand items?

Description: Please assess the supply potential of sources for reusable items. Are the people willing to donate and transfer their obsolete goods to re-use facilities (centres, parks), or they just do not interested?

Vote 1 if you consider that there is no willingness of people to make efforts to re-use at all and 5 if they consciously contribute to re-use by donating and even make efforts to bring their obsolete goods to a certain re-use facility.

Answering options:

- 1 - people are fully unconcerned by re-use issues
- 2 - there is only a minor part of public concerning the re-use issues
- 3 - The people generally know the environmental gains of re-use, but they do not make so much effort on that
- 4 - People are clearly know the advantages of re-use, but many of them do not make efforts to that
- 5 - The public know the advantages and also they apply it in their everyday life.



2.9. Questions on SRP implementation

The following questions are separated and the given answers are not included in the diagrams.

Question 1: What kind of re-use initiatives does already exist in your FUA?

Description: Please indicate (or name) existing initiatives in your FUA (even if they are run by different actors) which can be fitted into SRP concept!

Answering options (Y/N):

- Repair café
- Rental services
- Swapping platforms
- Educational labs
- Fab labs
- Online re-use marketplace
- Exhibition for different target groups

Question 2: Is there existing infrastructure which can be considered as building block towards an SRP (i.e. operating re-use centre or network)?

Description: Please assess the status of existing infrastructure for implementing a SRP.

Answering options (Y/N):

- Yes
- Partially
- No

Question 3: Who can implement and run operate a SRP?

Description: Who is authorised in your country to deploy and operate a SRP? Multiple choices are allowed.

Answering options (Y/N):

- Government
- NGO
- Civil association
- Private

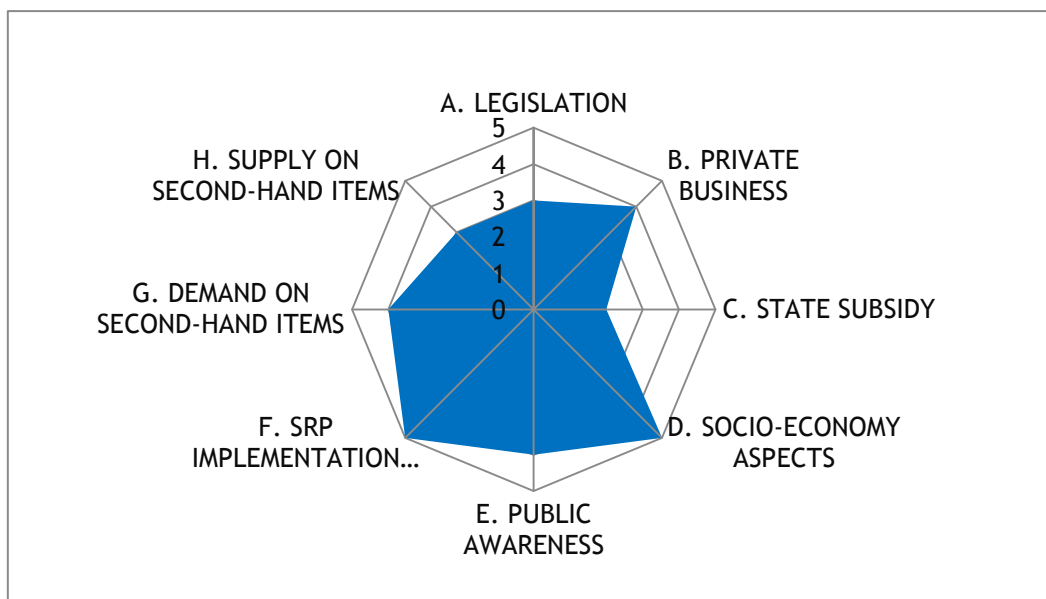


3. Evaluation of individual survey feedbacks

The chapter intends to present the results and consequences of each FUA based on the feedbacks. The individual summary includes the spider-web diagram with the grading of each analysed dimensions and a description on the interpretation of results and also aspires to share some consequences. The introduction follows the alphabetical order of the project participant countries.

3.1. Austria / FUA Middle Tyrol

Responsible project partner: PP1 - Abfallwirtschaft Tirol Mitte GmbH



In the Austrian FUA the strongest dimension concerning re-use is its socio-economy aspect: there are one or more social programmes linking directly to re-use. It is in close relation with a definitely positive public awareness and the dominant presence of private for-profit and non-for-profit businesses as well in the field of re-use. These positive givens leads to a relevant potential to the development of SRP in the region. This intention is also promoted by the already existing re-use related initiatives in the region, i.e.: repair and upcycling workshops, repair cafés, swapping platforms, rental services, fab labs, Library of Things, guided city tours with the focus on Re-Use. There are 62 recycling in the region where re-usable items can be collected. The operators of an SRP is not strict its host can be even an NGO, civil association and private company as well.

The willingness of citizens to donate/transfer their obsolete items to re-use facilities is generally positive, but as long as there is a (well-known) company which makes profit out of the sale of re-use items the willingness may decline. So, the public is mainly motivated by environmental aspect to donate their obsolete items.

Concerning the demand on second-hand items, in the FUA there is a strong striving for people beyond the green movement community to buy them. Although in the other districts of Tirol, especially in the touristic areas the interest deteriorates drastically.

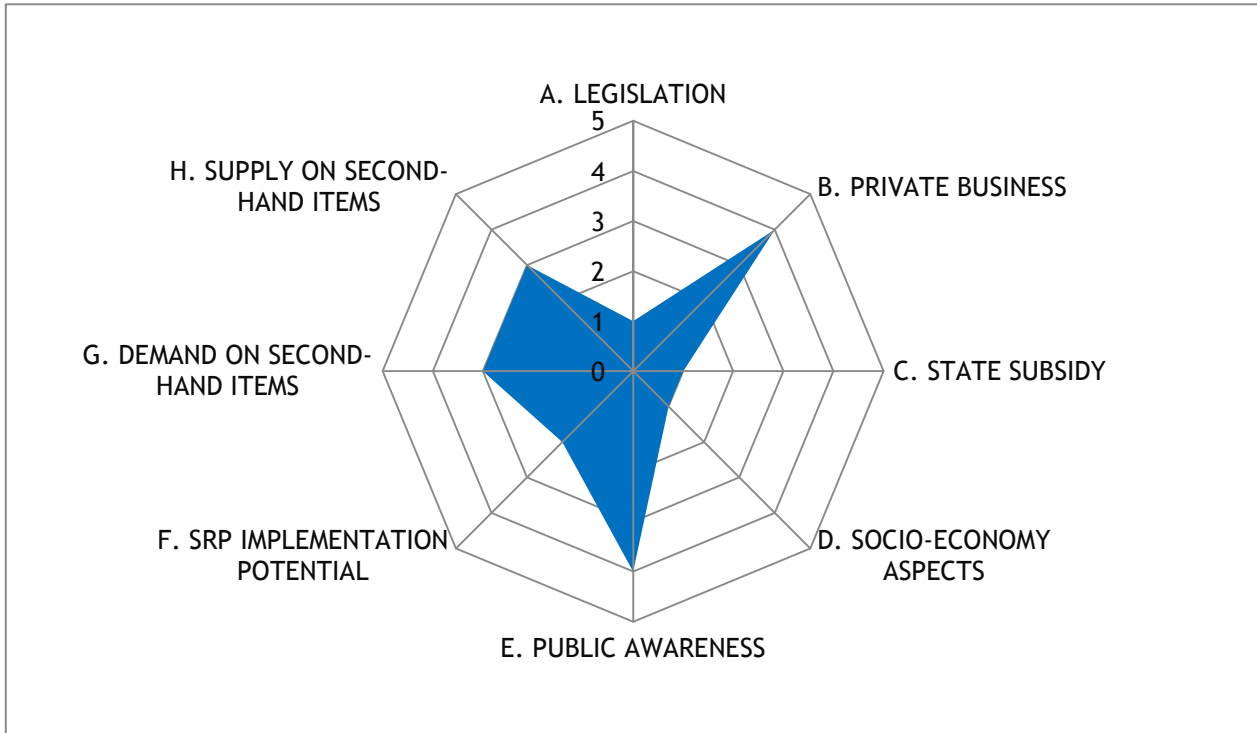
The main drawback of the Austrian re-use system is the insufficient financial support, moreover the legislative background² is also mentioned as a non-supportive factor.

² The "Tiroler Abfallwirtschaftsgesetz" (Regional law - FUA) regulates and supports in § 4 (1) & (5), § 6 (2) the ReUse approach based on the national waste management law § 1 and defined § 2.



3.2. Croatia / FUA Labin

Responsible project partner: PP9 - ACT Grupa



In the Croatian FUA, Labin the two most potent re-use related dimensions are the dominant presence of private share in re-use business and the positive attitude of the public on re-use related actions and initiatives. However several weak points have been identified hindering re-use: one is the legislative background which does not concern re-use even indirectly. As a consequence of lacking legislation, the state subsidy promoting re-use activities is also underdeveloped and social programmes (even indirectly linked to general waste management and re-use activities) are also missing. These factors result low potential on SRP implementation.

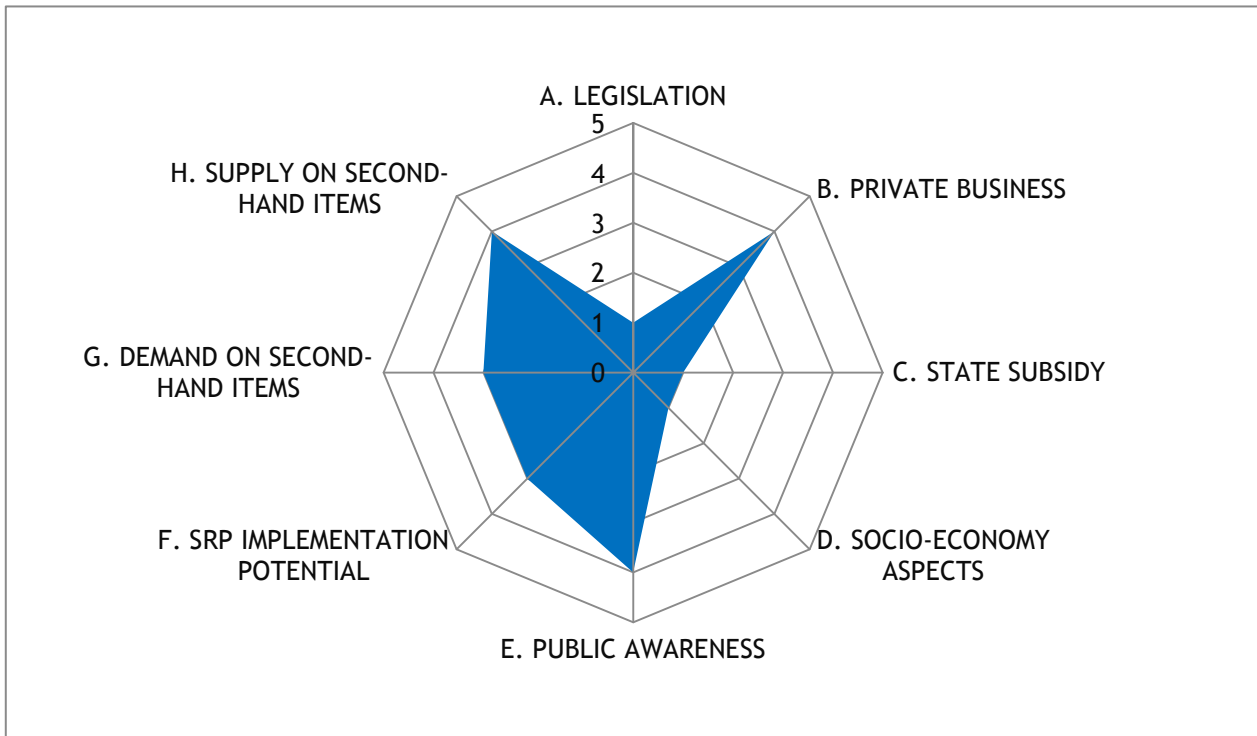
The only existing SRP related initiative in the FUA is a textile re-use sorting facility and shop, which can be considered as a building block towards an SRP in the region. There is no restriction on the legal status (NGO, Government, Private, etc.) of the SRP installer or operator.



3.3. Czech Republic / FUA Stonavka - Ostrava

Responsible project partner: PP11 - IURS

FUA Ostrava



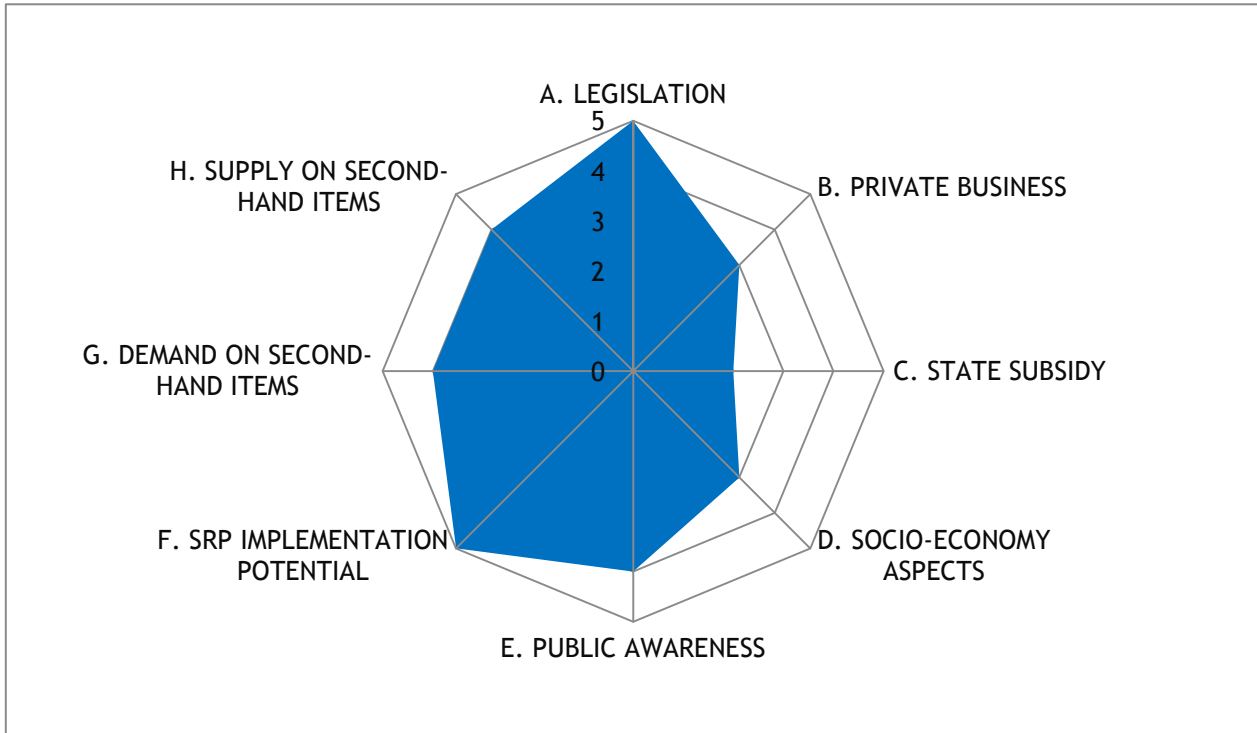
The strength of re-use related dimensions in the FUA is the relevant presence of private businesses. These legal bodies are business organisations and various NGOs (i.e. charity). Another positive aspect is the positive attitude of the public on re-use initiatives which leads to an active supply potential on reusable second-hand items. Despite the positive attitude of the public, they cannot distinguish the difference between re-use and recycling as different waste management steps.

Unfortunately the Bohemian legislative system is not supportive concerning re-use and it implies the missing financial subsidy from government supporting re-use related actions, initiatives. Due to the low state of re-use development there are only a few SRP related activities are present in the FUA, i.e. rental services, educational labs, online re-use marketplace, exhibition for different target groups.



3.4. Germany / FUA Kempten

Responsible project partner: PP6 - ZAK



According to the survey results from the FUAs the German region can be considered to be in the most favourable situation concerning re-use, albeit its situation is far from the ideal status.

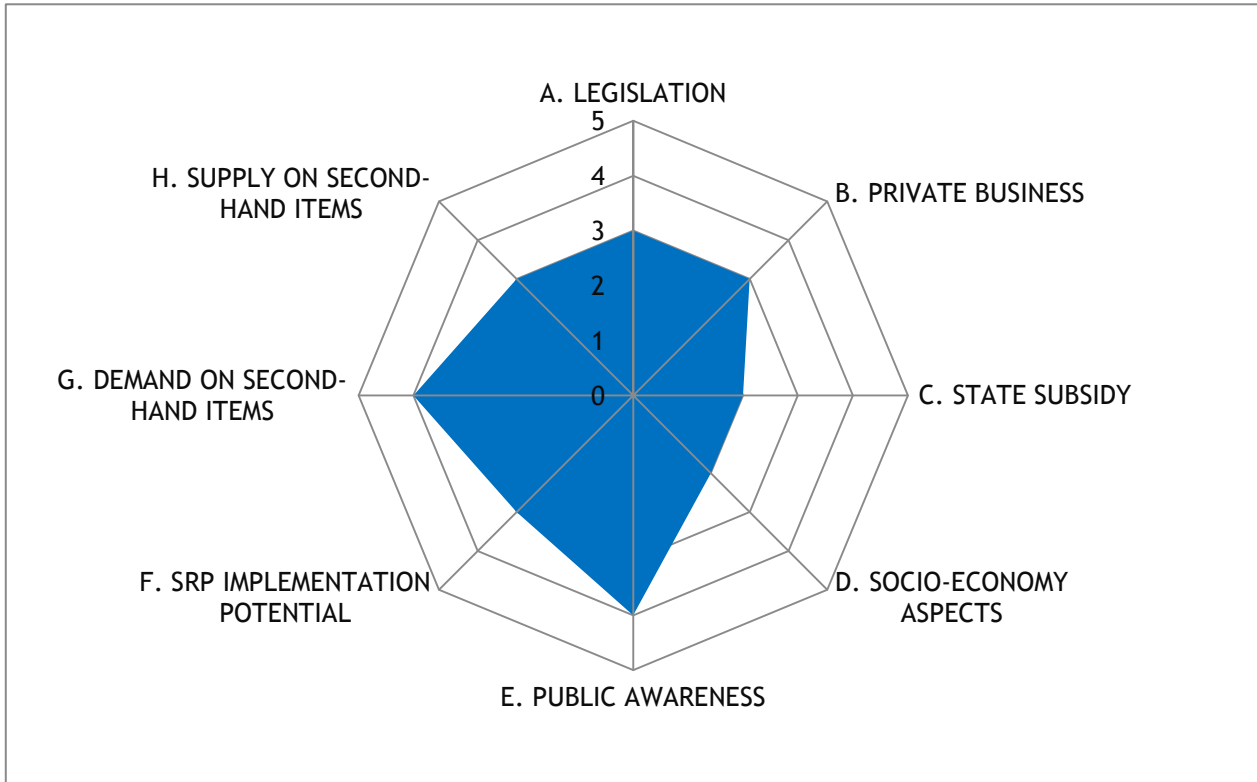
The most supportive factors in the FUA are the legislative background on re-use and the implementation potential on SRP. The prior agent means the presence of proactive actions beyond the fulfilled judicial obligations. The latter is the numerous existing activities that can be fitted easily into an SRP, for example: repair and upcycling workshops, repair cafés, rental services, swapping platforms, educational labs, fab labs, exhibitions and online re-use marketplaces. An SRP can be implemented and run by any types of legal bodies.

Similarly to the situation of the also well-developed Austrian FUA the main handicap is the relevant financial subsidy, or social programme for preparing for re-use activities as part of the general waste management.



3.5. Hungary / FUA Budapest

Responsible project partner: PP8 - BZN



The Hungarian FUA can be positioned in a fully average status from every aspect and can make a step forward in each category. The two most promising givens are the generally positive perception of the public on re-use issues and the dominantly positive acceptance of using second-hand products.

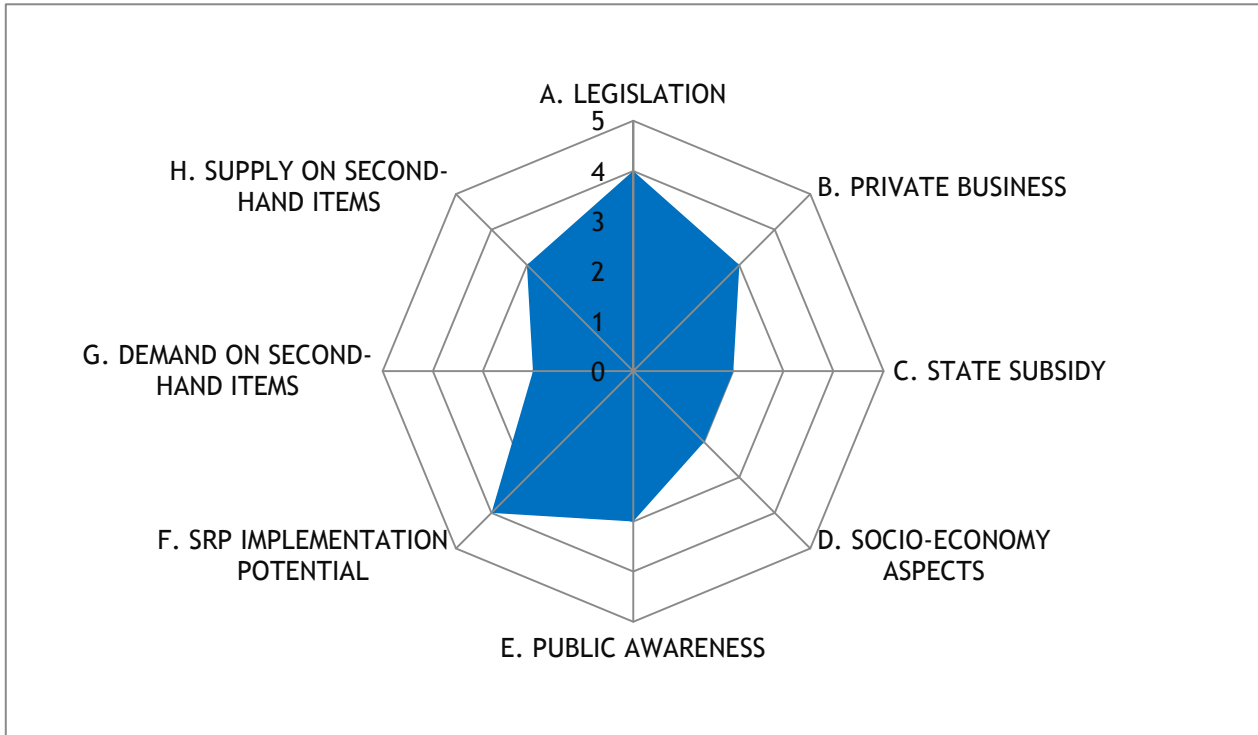
Nevertheless the two identified most relevant drawbacks refers to the engagement of state aiming to support: nor direct financial subsidy, nor direct social programmes exist supporting re-use initiatives.

Some elements as building blocks for an SRP already exist in the FUA, i.e. rental service, online re-use marketplace, exhibition for different target groups. From venture aspects there is no restriction on the type of legal body to implement or to run an SRP.



3.6. Italy / FUA Emilia Romagna

Responsible project partner: PP4 - PoR



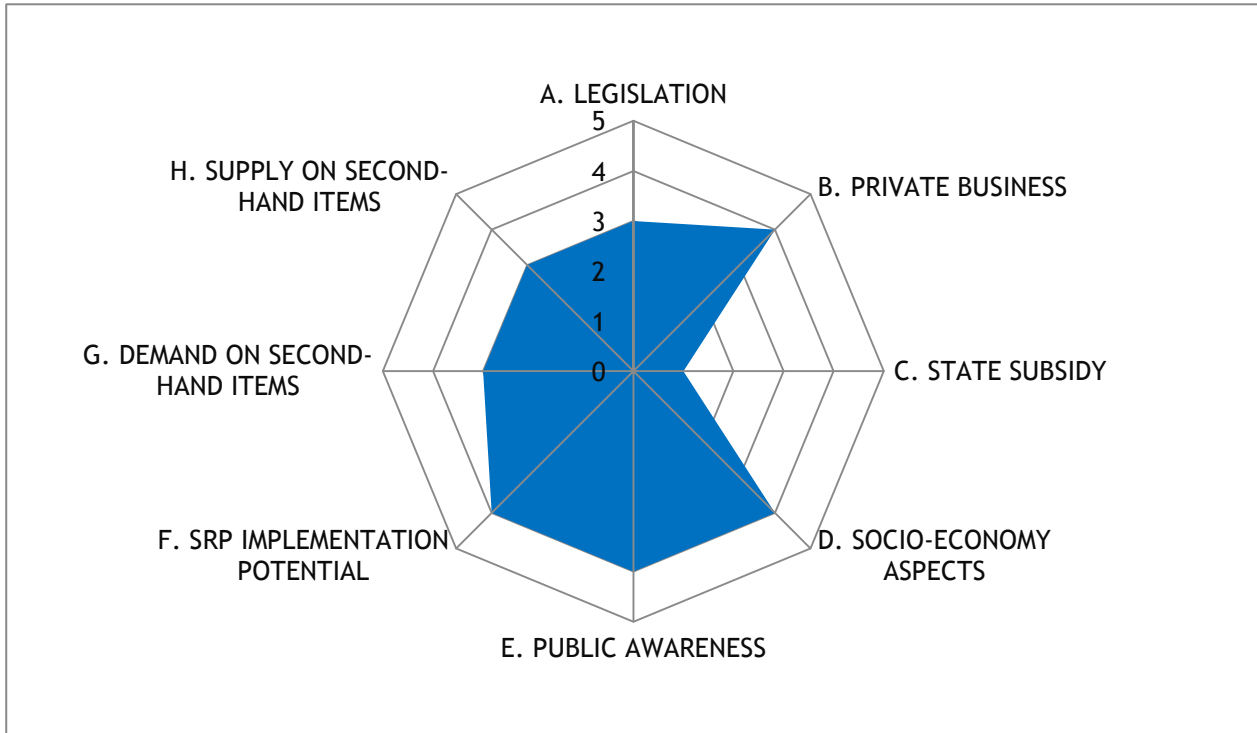
Comparing to other FUAs Emilia Romagna region is in the middle concerning the strength and weaknesses. In general every category can have possible improvements. The categories assessed being the most advanced are the generally well-going legislative background, which fulfils all re-use related obligations and the relevant potential on implementing an SRP. It means that currently there are several existing re-use initiatives, i.e.: repair and upcycling workshops, rental services, swapping platforms, educational labs, fab labs. The communication as a fundamental key was identified to boost the supply on second-hand items.

The assigned drawbacks of the current situation in the FUA are the insufficient state support of re-use initiatives from financial (subsidy) and dedicated social programmes. The demand on second-hand items identified being very low due to the close correlation between its interest on buying and the economic prosperity of the citizens.



3.7. Italy / FUA Vicenza

Responsible project partner: PP5 - INSIEME



The Italian Vicenza belongs to the most developed SURFACE FUAs. The most relevant dimensions towards an SRP are the private business, socio-economy aspects, public awareness and SRP Implementation Potential.

Concerning the private share in re-use business it is dominant but in some cases (our FUA) it is included in agreements between the waste management company and the environmental operator that runs the collection points.

The socio-economy aspect is also advantageous, i.e. public procurements include special laws directly linked to the employment of disadvantage people; the local Social Services recognize the cooperatives involved in the re-use sector and in the disadvantage people.

The public awareness can be considered also relevant: the public in the FUA is mainly positive about re-use because of the long term experience and good reputation of project partner Insieme, but it is not well informed about the preparation for re-use procedures and law limits. As a drawback this awareness is lacking above all because of the informal and often illegal activities in this field of some operators.

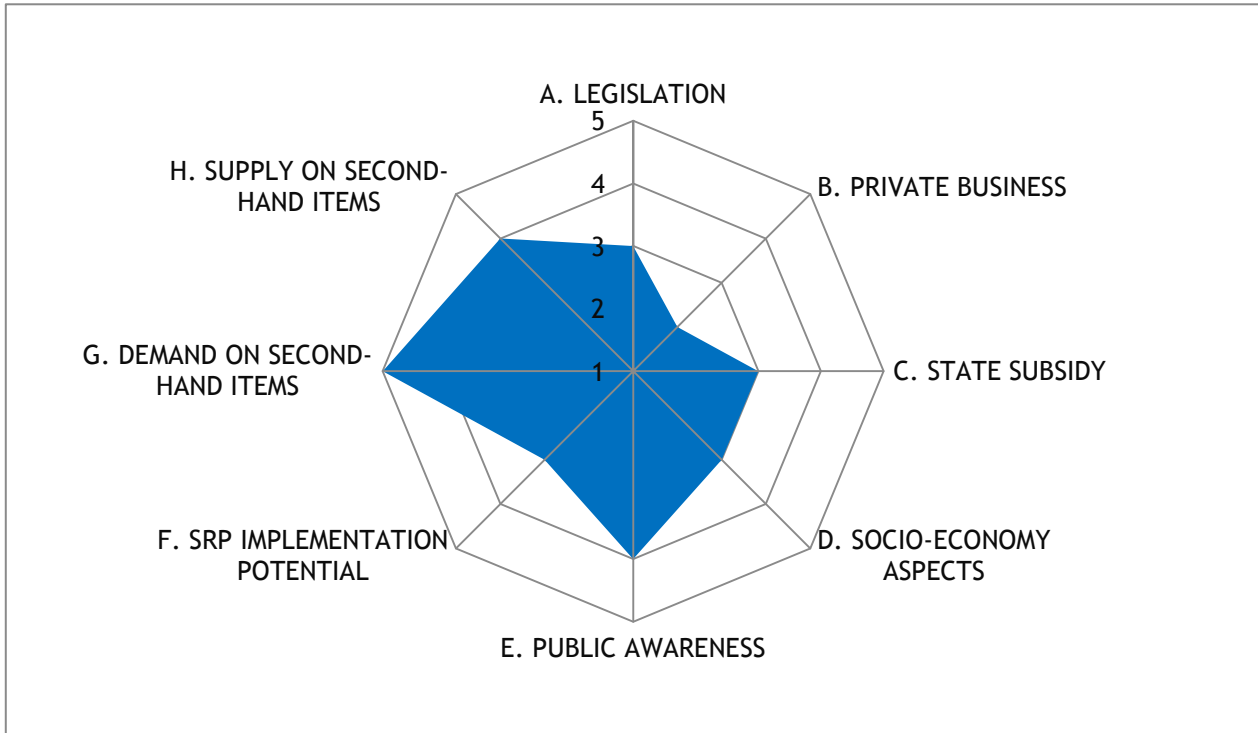
The above mentioned positive givens leads to the direct consequence of a significant SRP implementation potential.

As a recurrent negative dimension of most of the surveys is the insufficient level of state subsidy. However, there are some attempts in the FUA and at a regional/national level to reach an agreement that recognizes a subsidy to re-use activities depending on the economic saving that re-use sector brings to the general waste management.



3.8. Poland / FUA Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship

Responsible project partner: PP7 - K-PV



The most promising dimension towards an SRP in the Polish FUA is the generally positive attitude of public on re-use initiatives. The using of second-hand items is broadly accepted there without negative public opinion. As a consequence the demand on second-hand items is high, however the public is clearly know the advantages of re-use, but many of them do not make efforts to offer them to re-use purposes.

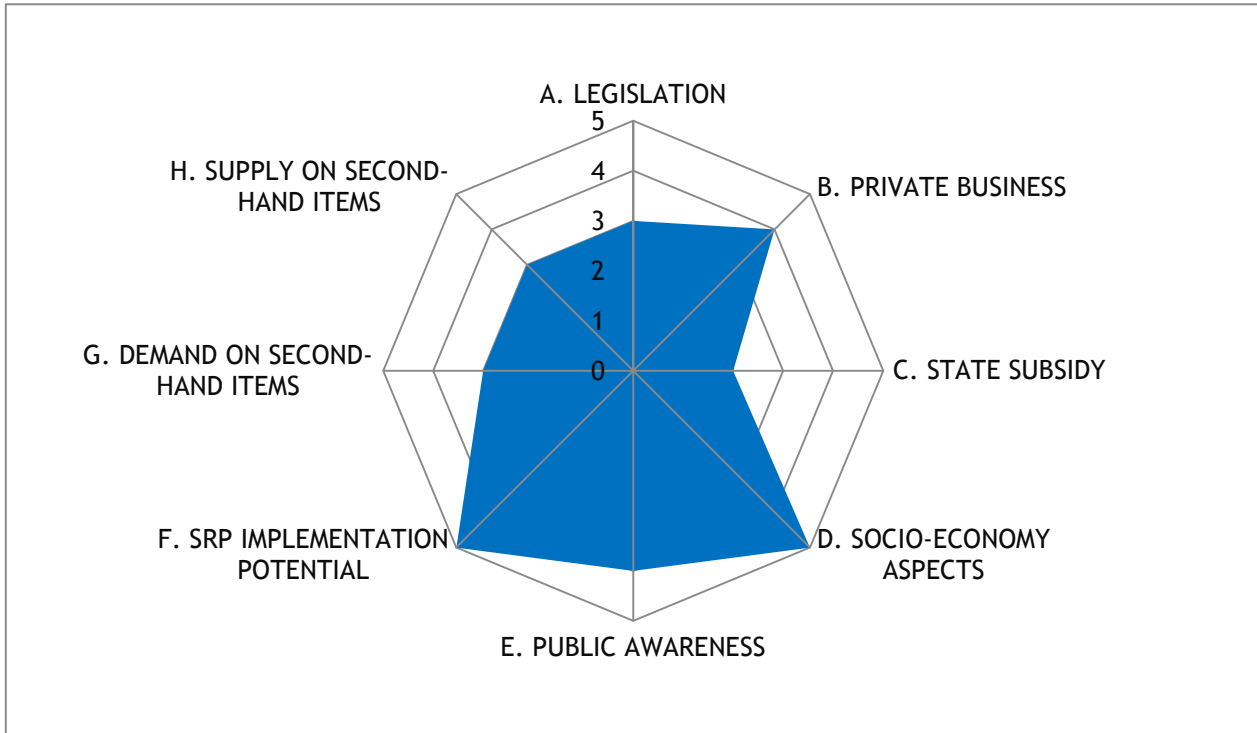
The presence of private actors for making business in re-use is considered generally low in the region, the sector is mainly dominant by governmental organisations.

Despite the existing re-use related issues in the FUA (i.e. repair and upcycling workshop, rental services, swapping platforms, online re-us marketplace, exhibitions) the SRP implementation potential is also assessed being low, because the existing infrastructure is rudimentary and needs further developments.



3.9. Slovenia / FUA Central Ljubljana

Responsible project partner: PP3 - CPU



Slovenian FUA belongs to the most promising FUAs among the SURFACE project partners. In the region there are more social programmes linked directly to re-use, as well as relevant re-use related activities that can be implemented directly into the operation of an SRP. There are straightforward additional activities which can be easily fit to an SRP (i.e. a learning centre of re-use skills, family centre-workshops).

Despite this consequence of the summary, there are identified weaknesses in the system that can be maintained. For example, concerning the Slovenian legislative system it supports the circular economy and re-use, but in practice there it is not reflected. Other problem hampering the public penetrance of re-use is that there is no access to re-usable items at collection centres, so these products with re-use potential are being diverted to recycling and/or disposal.

The public has significantly positive attitude on re-use initiatives, however in practice they prefer buying new commodities instead of second-hand ones.

Another identified weakness in the Slovenian situation is the lacking of significant financial support on re-use related activities, nevertheless the socio-economy impacts are relevant in Slovenia. The current situation is that re-use activities exist in Slovenia, but purely on market conditions.



4. Conclusions summary

The overall impression gained by the evaluation of the individual surveys above accurately reflects the re-use situations in the concerned FUAs. The overall consequences on each analysed dimensions are introduced in this chapter.

Legislation

From legislative aspects the German FUA is in the most favourable position: its legislative measures exceed the mandatory provisions proactively. Italian region Emilia Romagna and Austrian Mid-Tyrol can be assumed to have a supportive legislation on re-use.

On the other end of the scale, the Croatian and Bohemian FUAs reported a rather passive and insufficient legislative system from re-use dimensions. The other FUAs are positioned themselves being in a neutral legal status, where the related obligations (derived from EU and national level) are fulfilled, however re-use is poorly addressed in the national and regional legislations.

Private business in re-use field

The presence of private actors in re-use field is mainly dominant in Austrian, Italian, Croatian and Slovenian FUAs. In Austria the private sector also involves private non-profit organisations. Most of the respondents claimed that the private share in re-use business is considerable, but still minor. In the Polish FUA the sector is mainly dominant by governmental organisations.

State subsidy

According to the reported answers of the surveys the most depressed aspect in re-use field is the deficient state subsidy. In most of the FUAs there are some not significant financial supports, even they do not address re-use directly, even in the most exemplary region like Austria and Germany.

Socio-economy aspects

This analysed dimension shows the biggest deviation of answers: Austrian and Italian FUAs can be considered having the most developed region, which are being reflected by the answers. Austria and Italy (Vicenza) reported that there are more social programmes linked directly to re-use, and also in German FUA there are more social programmes, but with indirect relation to re-use. In other FUAs there are no social programmes at all, or if there are any, they indirectly linked to general waste management, but not re-use.

Public awareness

The public awareness on preparing for re-use activities is generally positive, but in Italian Emilia Romagna FUA it is assumed to be neutral, but not negative at all. In Austria and in Italian Vicenza this awareness manifests in practice due to the existing re-use related shops having intensive visits by costumers and for a generally good reputation of re-use. In Croatian FUA the awareness is also very positive, however it is lacking of re-use shops.

SRP implementation potential

The givens in project SRPs are considered to be the most developed in Austria, Germany, Italy (Emilia Romagna, Vicenza) and Slovenia. It means that in these regions there are already relevant activities that can be easily integrated within an SRP. In these FUAs there are several specific re-use related activities are present i.e. repair and upcycling workshops, rental services, swapping platforms, fab labs.

Despite the very positive situation in Austria, they identified development potential in the region. According to their opinion the scientific approach and a more conscious public awareness is missing currently, which can promote far beyond the situation.



The Croatian FUA starts from a very basic level, where there is only one textile sorting facility with a shop represents the re-use activity.

In the rest of the FUAs, there are few SRP related activities are present. Hungarian partner reported that there are ongoing re-use related activities, however their integration into an SRP raises financial and legislative questions.

From starting SRP as a business (implementation, operation) generally there is no restriction on the legal status of its host (NGO, civil association, private, etc).

Demand and supply on second-hand items

The assessment of demand on second-hand items is the most ambiguous among the FUAs: Austrian, German, Hungarian, and especially Polish partners reported that using and buying second-hand items are generally approved by the public. On the contrary Croatian, Italian (Emilia Romagna, Vicenza) and Slovenian partners shared that there is a massive negative opinion on using second-hand items. In Bohemian FUA there are ineligible experiments the topic.

The feedbacks on supply of second-hand items reflect quite consistent situations in the FUAs. They generally assess that the public in the FUA generally is conscious on the environmental gains of re-use, but as a common experience, they hardly turn it into practice, which means they do not make efforts to deliver their obsolete products to a re-use friendly option, i.e. collection centres, online marketing, etc.



5. Decision Matrix

The individual partner surveys are composed into one common table summarising the status-quo situation on each FUA assigned within SURFACE project. The DM is a comprehensive summary of the survey with the questions with their answering options and all the answers from the FUAs.

This table is intended to serve as the Decision Matrix (DM) defined by the Application Form. The DM is aimed to contribute for a swift benchmarking of the current situations in SURFACE FUAs from different aspects of re-use, i.e. legislation, economic conditions, public attitude. It can also transfer information for new associated partners, or stakeholders having interest to implement and/or operate SRPs, or solely a variety of single re-use activities.

The matrix includes the complete feedbacks from each of the partners and can be found in Annex I as they were supplied authentically.