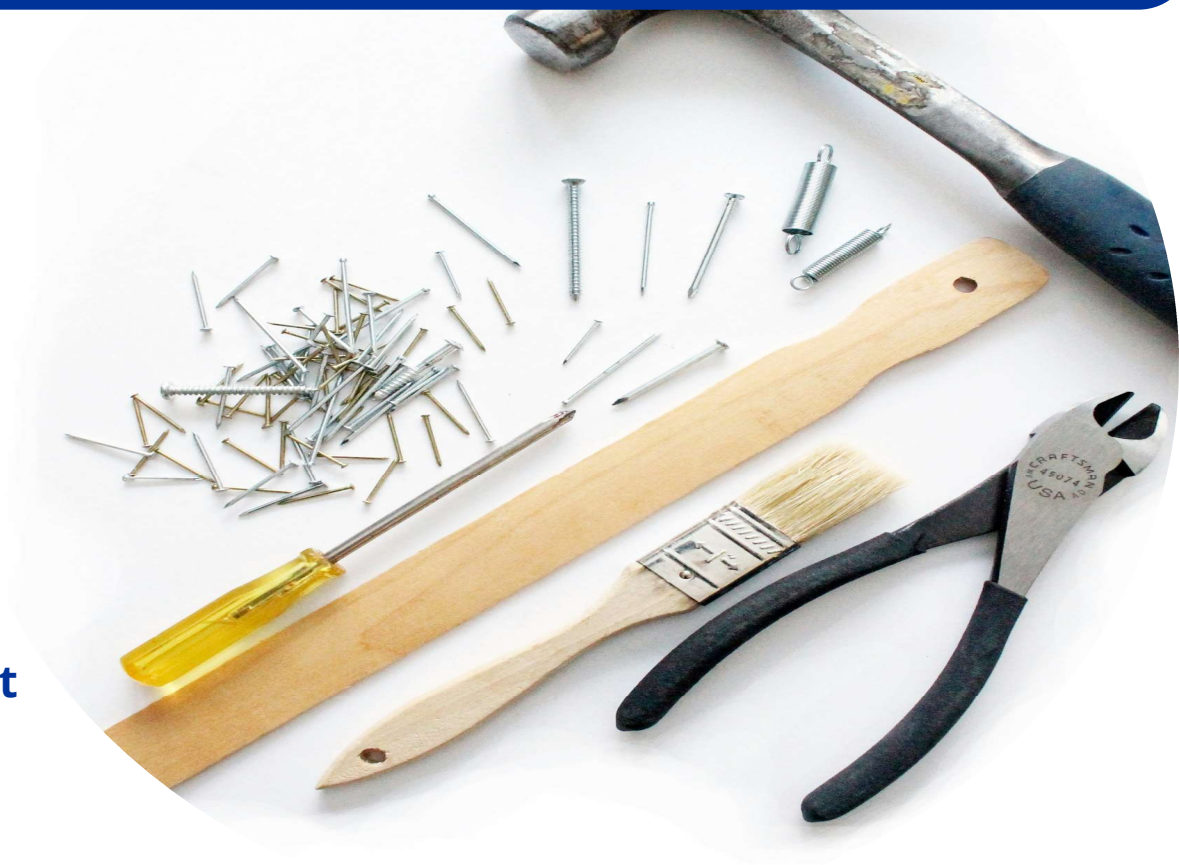


Innovative Sustainable Economy

Making repair the easy choice

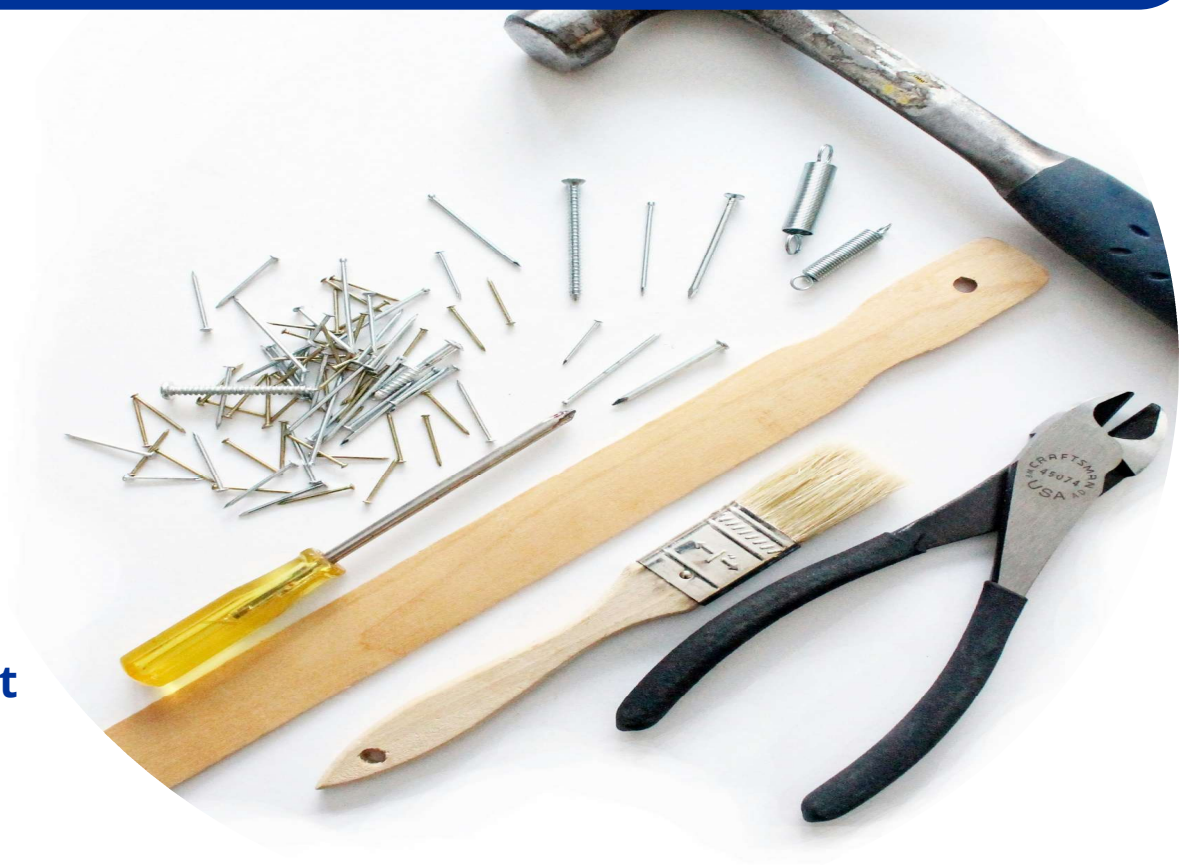
By the Interreg Euro-MED REPper project



Making repair the easy choice

1. The right to repair: what it is

By the Interreg Euro-MED REPper project



The right to repair: what it is

Each year, **35 million tonnes of waste** accumulate in the European Union, including a vast number of potentially repairable items that end up in landfills. This excessive waste generation threatens progress toward a circular and sustainable economy.



To counteract this, the **right to repair** directive ensures that consumers can repair their goods easily and affordably rather than having to replace them.



The regulation has been approved by the European Parliament, and the 27 EU member states must transpose the directive into their national legislation by **31 July 2026**.



Electronics is the fastest-growing source of waste in the EU

MAIN POINTS OF THE RIGHT TO REPAIR:

1. Repair obligation:

Manufacturers will be required to provide timely and affordable repair services while informing consumers of their rights. Additionally, legal warranties will be extended by one year.

2. Repairable products:

The law applies to products such as household appliances and electronic devices, though the category may be expanded. Consumers will also have the option to borrow devices or choose refurbished products.

3. Information on repair services:

Information on repair services: Consumers will receive a standardised European form to compare repair services, and an online platform will be developed to help locate local repair shops.

4. Revitalising the repair market:

Manufacturers must ensure the availability of spare parts and tools at reasonable prices, and must not obstruct repairs, even those performed independently.

5. Promoting affordable repairs:

Each Member State will be required to implement strategies to make repair services more accessible.

77% of EU consumers would prefer to repair their goods rather than purchase new ones, but often forego repairs due to high costs

(source: Eurobarometro 2020)



Recycling policies in the EU vary from country to country. In 2021, Austria had the highest average e-waste collection among EU nations, reaching **15.46 kg per inhabitant**.



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This training course is dedicated to the right to repair, a topic that is becoming more and more important when we talk about sustainability, circular economy and consumer rights.

How many times have we replaced an object instead of repairing it? It could be a smartphone with a weak battery, a washing machine that suddenly stops working, a computer that becomes slower.

Very often, **the easiest solution seems to be buying a new one**: this happens because we live in an **economic system based on unlimited consumption**, where everything is bought and everything is thrown away.

But this habit comes with a **huge cost from an economic, environmental and social point of view**.

Every year, around 35 million tonnes of waste are generated in the European Union and many of these products could potentially be repaired. Electronic devices are the fastest-growing category of waste.

The right to repair: what it is



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But there is an interesting fact. According to Eurobarometer, **77% of European citizens would prefer to repair their products instead of buying new ones** — if repairing them were easy and affordable.

What would change your choice between repair your smartphone, your bike or your washing machine and buying a new one? Very often, the answer depends on three factors:

- ✓ the **cost** of the repair,
- ✓ the availability of **spare parts**,
- ✓ and the lack of **technical skills** — or simply the difficulty of finding someone able to repair it.

We should also consider that many products are designed not to be repaired, especially electronic devices that cannot even be disassembled. This is exactly where the right to repair comes in.

The right to repair: what it is



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The right to repair is a simple but very powerful principle: manufacturers should **design products that can be repaired**, and consumers should have the **real freedom and possibility to repair** what they own, thanks to access to spare parts, tools and technical information.

The real challenge is making repairs possible **even after the warranty period**, without excessive costs, and in a way that is accessible and convenient.

The goal is to reduce waste and our dependence on constantly buying new products. For this reason, European Member States have already introduced measures to promote the repair and reuse of products with a high environmental impact — especially energy-related products such as household appliances, displays, smartphones and tablets.

These rules require spare parts and repair information to remain available even after the legal guarantee period established by EU Directive 2019/771

The right to repair: what it is



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Here's a list of what will change with the right to repair.

First of all, products such as household appliances and electronics will **increasingly** need to be **repairable**, and over time this approach will be extended to more and more categories of products.

Consumers will also have access to clearer and more transparent **information**.

A European standard repair form and **an online platform** will help people easily compare repair services and find repair shops nearby.

At the same time, the goal is to strengthen the **repair market**. Manufacturers will have to provide spare parts and tools at reasonable prices, without preventing independent repairs.

In addition, every country will have to introduce measures and **incentives** to make repairs more accessible and widespread.

The right to repair: what it is



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Manufacturers will increasingly be required to offer repair services that are affordable and timely, while clearly informing consumers about their rights.

In this context, the European project **REPper – REPair PERspective** was created to promote a real culture of repair. The goal is to support citizens, businesses and professionals in the transition toward a more **circular economy**.

This training course has exactly the same purpose: to help people understand why repair matters, what regulations already exist, and what opportunities this transition can create: repairing does not simply mean fixing an object, it means **changing the way we think about products, resources and our future**.

The right to repair: what it is



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