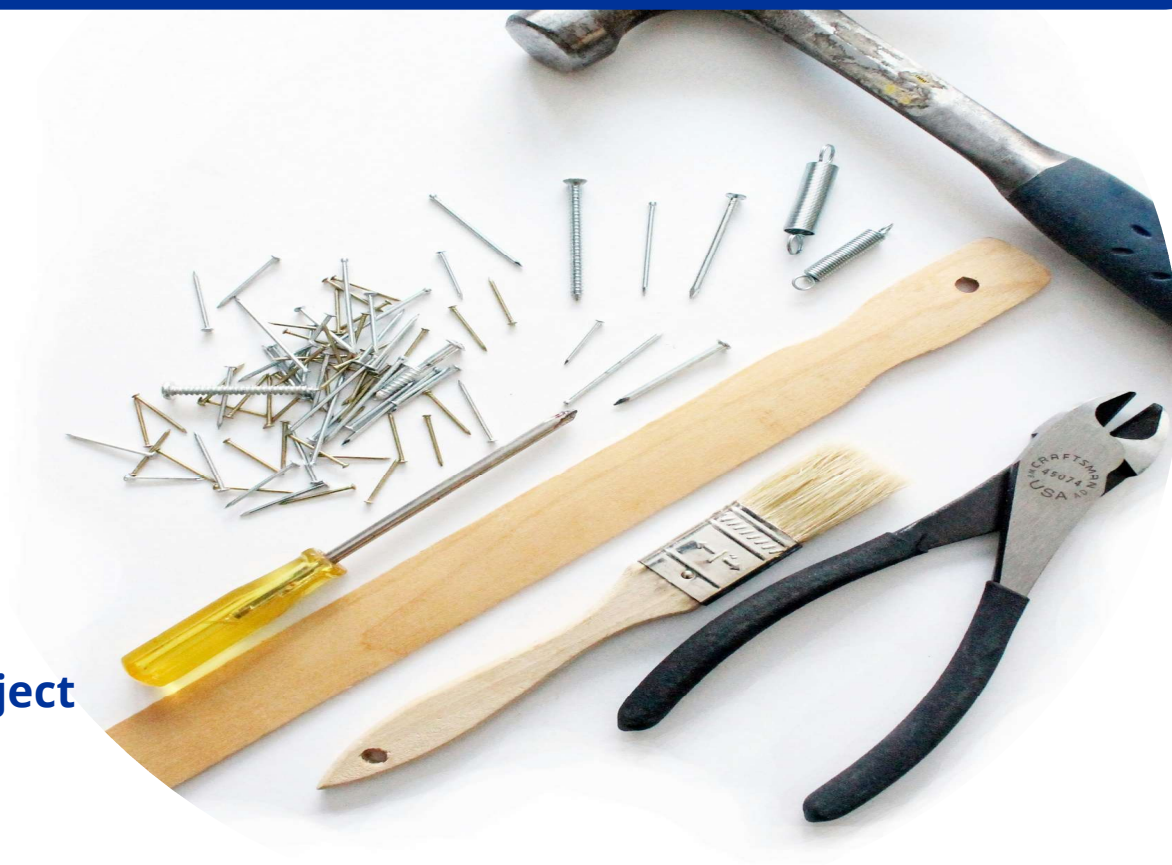


Innovative Sustainable Economy

Making repair the easy choice

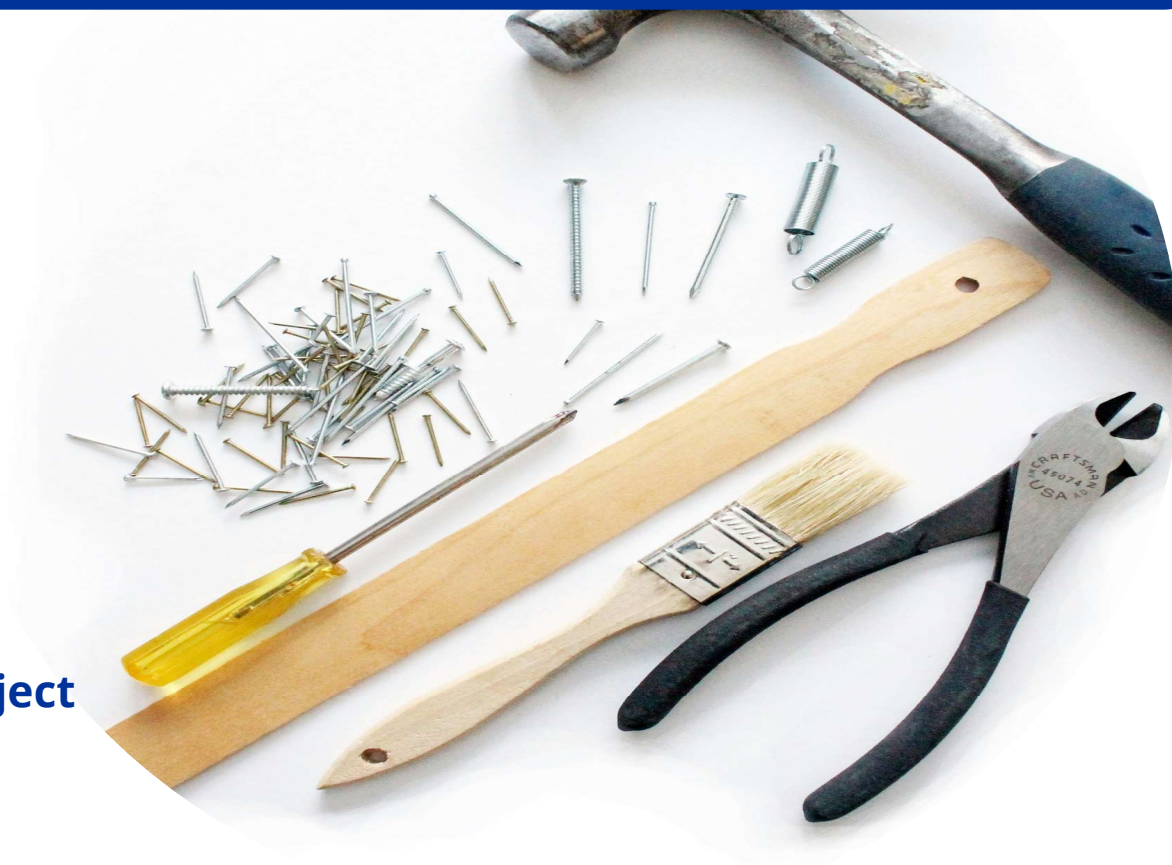
By the Interreg Euro-MED REPper project



Making repair the easy choice

4. Sustainable consumption

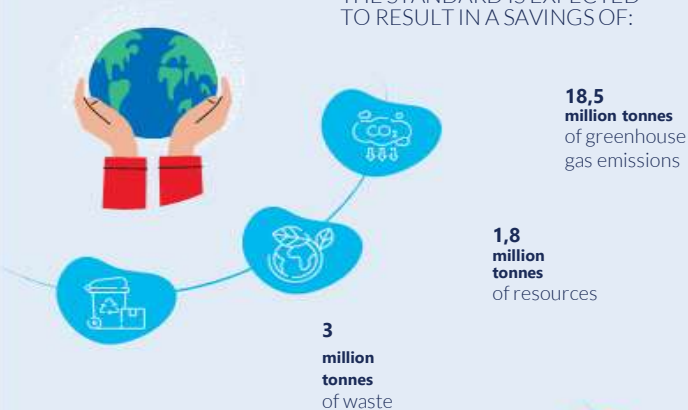
By the Interreg Euro-MED REPper project



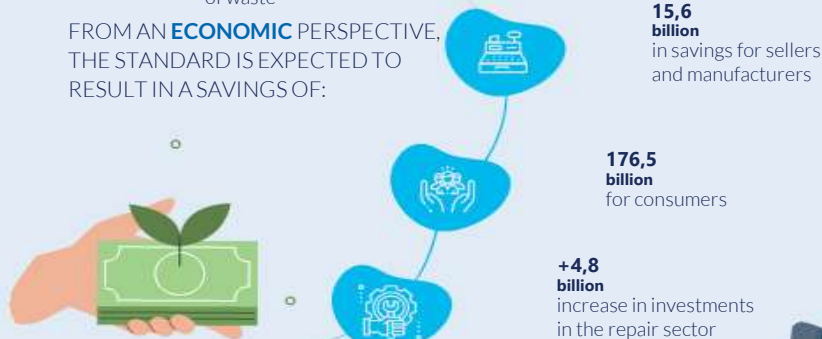
Sustainable consumption

The right to repair not only benefits the environment, it also offers significant economic advantages. **Here is a projection of the expected savings over the next 15 years.**

FROM AN **ENVIRONMENTAL** PERSPECTIVE, THE STANDARD IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN A SAVINGS OF:



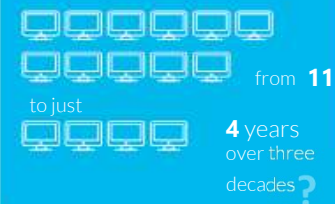
FROM AN **ECONOMIC** PERSPECTIVE, THE STANDARD IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN A SAVINGS OF:



Did you know that...?

In the 1930s, researchers at the chemical company DuPont developed nylon, an exceptionally strong synthetic fibre. **Perhaps too strong:** nylon stockings no longer laddered, leading to a decline in sales. In response, DuPont instructed its technicians to weaken the fibre they had originally engineered.

the average lifespan of computers has dropped



Is there an International Repair Day? Yes, it's on the third Saturday in October



REPAIR CAFÉS

If there is one place that **embodies the circular economy**, it is the Repair Café. These **public spaces** (whether bars, shops, or courtyards) allow people to bring damaged objects to be repaired by volunteers, who provide both the skills and the necessary tools.

Items of all kinds can be brought in, from hair dryers and smartphones to washing machine circuit boards, blenders, and even wooden stools. Today, **there are approximately 3,000 Repair Cafés** worldwide, and their number continues to grow.



Repairing an object may seem like a small choice. But if millions of people were put in a position to make the same choice, the impact would be enormous. And if companies sold products designed to last and to be repaired, the benefits would be extraordinary: for the environment, for our wallets, and for future generations.

The right to repair is not only about companies or legislation. It also concerns the way we, as consumers, use and choose products.

When we decide to repair an object instead of replacing it, we make a choice that has positive effects on many different levels.

First of all, we **reduce waste**. According to European estimates, the right to repair could lead to a reduction of around 200,000 (2 hundred thousand) tonnes of waste every year.

But that's not all.

Sustainable consumption



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Over the next 15 years, it is expected to generate:

- savings of 1.8 million tonnes of **natural resources**
- a reduction of 18.5 million tonnes of **greenhouse gas emissions**

This means fewer raw materials extracted, less energy consumed, and less impact on the climate.

But the benefits are not only environmental. From an economic point of view, it is estimated that over the next 15 years the right to repair could generate:

- 176.5 (one hundred seventy six.five) billion euros in **savings for consumers**
- 15.6 billion euros for **producers and sellers**
- and an increase of 4.8 billion euros in **investments in the repair sector**

Repairing, therefore, is not only an environmentally responsible choice. It is also a convenient and economically sustainable choice.

Sustainable consumption



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Another problem that the right to repair aims to address is planned and **premature obsolescence**.

In some cases, products are designed to fail or become unusable after a short period of time. Or they are built in ways that make replacing components extremely difficult — if not impossible.

The result is that many products are replaced much earlier than necessary. Just think that **only 22% of electronic waste worldwide is properly recycled**, while the rest ends up in landfills or is exported elsewhere. And over the last decades, the average **lifespan** of some devices — such as computers — has drastically **decreased**.

However, there are also positive examples. One of the most interesting is the experience of **Repair Cafés**. These are public spaces — such as cafés, community spaces or courtyards — where people can bring broken objects and learn how to repair them with the help of volunteers.

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In these places, people share skills, tools and knowledge. And almost anything can be repaired there: from smartphones to household appliances, all the way to everyday objects.

Today, there are around 3,000 Repair Cafés worldwide, and their number continues to grow.

These initiatives show that repair can also help create **community connections and strengthen social cohesion**.

Sustainable consumption does not necessarily mean giving something up: it means making **more conscious choices**, it means understanding when we are being pushed to buy something, and **when we actually need it**, it means using what we already own for a longer time, repairing it whenever possible.

And it means giving value to objects by reusing them instead of automatically replacing them.

Sustainable consumption



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