Attitude of the stakeholders involved in the reuse of small electrical and electronic wastes from an end-of-life perspective

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Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) is one of the fastest growing waste streams worldwide. Its legal framework in Europe is regulated by Directive 2012/19/EU that prioritizes, after prevention, the preparation for reuse against other valorisation options such as recycling.

In the case of small electrical and electronic equipment (sWEEE), its preparation for reuse is not yet a general practice nowadays (Pérez-Belis et al., 2015). On the one hand, these products are not designed from the perspective of reuse, making it difficult their disassembly in recycling plants and the tasks of workers at them (Bovea et al., 2016). On the other hand, there is no a widespread culture of reuse either among consumers or among companies in charge of their management, since their practices are not made taking into account their potential reuse (Kissling et al., 2013).

This paper examines the awareness and perceptions towards the reuse of sWEEE from different stakeholders involved its end-of-life. Taking as a methodology for obtaining such information direct interviewers, end-of-life users, repair companies, companies selling second hand electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and re-use centres (social insertion) that manage sWEEE for reuse purposes have been interviewed in order to identify main barriers and proposes best practices to overcome them.

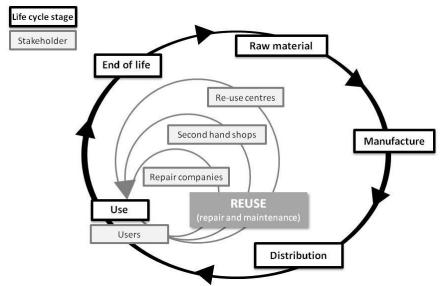


Figure 1. Stakeholders involved in the reuse of small electrical and electronic wastes.

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