

MAPPING EEE REUSE AND WEEE PREPARING FOR REUSE PRACTICES AND INITIATIVES IN GREECE

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Abstract

This paper presents one of the fundamental, deliverables of LIFE-REWEEE project, the “Mapping Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) reuse and WEEE preparing for reuse practices and initiatives in Greece”, which develops – for first time in Greece – a useful information tank for the Project’s stakeholders, crucial for the implementation of the rest of the Project actions. The main goal of this study was the accurate mapping of the baseline situation on (W)EEE reuse and preparing for reuse in Greece (i.e. practices and initiatives), which is currently mainly based on informal, small – scale private entrepreneurial initiatives. The study evolved into two parallel axes: I. Collection, assessment and analysis of data from reliable sources, and II. Investigation of the impact of economic crisis in Greece on WEEE generation.

Keywords: EEE reuse, WEEE preparing for reuse, Greece

Introduction

The co-funded by the European Commission LIFE programme “Development and Demonstration of Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Prevention and Reuse Paradigms” (LIFE-REWEEE) started in January 2016, with ultimate aim to reduce WEEE through the implementation of prevention and preparing for reuse actions. More specifically, it aims to promote and facilitate the implementation of the relevant legislation, the reliable and socially sensitive preparation for reuse in Greece, and the development and implementation of models and assessment tools of EU-wide applicability.

This paper presents one of the fundamental, deliverables of LIFE-REWEEE project, the “Mapping Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) reuse and WEEE preparing for reuse practices and initiatives in Greece”, which develops – for first time in Greece – a useful information tank for the Project’s stakeholders, crucial for the implementation of the rest of the Project actions. The main goal of this study was the accurate mapping of the baseline situation on (W)EEE reuse and preparing for reuse in Greece (i.e. practices and initiatives), which is currently mainly based on informal, small – scale private entrepreneurial initiatives. The study evolved into two parallel axes: I. Collection, assessment and analysis of data from reliable sources, and II. Investigation of the impact of economic crisis in Greece on WEEE generation.

Methodology

For the aforementioned study several tools, such as questionnaire-based interviews and a desk top study of official, scientific and grey literature were explicitly employed. Up to authors' knowledge, this mapping was conducted for first time in Greece and achieved through analysis and processing primary data, derived from repair centers, EEE representative networks, traders involved in repairing, reusing or preparing for reuse activities. Additionally, the impact of the Greece's deep economic crisis on the sale of EEE and WEEE generation (in quantitative and qualitative terms), and the consumer behaviour was studied.

In this context 105 questionnaire-based interviews were compiled (84% of which were filled by micro-sized enterprises i.e. <10 employees, while only 3% were filled by large sized repairers i.e. >250 employees). The questions focused on quantification of EEE, the reasons for WEEE generation, the WEEE prevention initiatives and the their efficiency. In addition, appropriate indicators for the quantification of WEEE were developed based on actual data, with the ultimate goal of filling gaps in availability of data. Consumer's behaviour towards EEE was affected by economic crisis, and eventually affected WEEE generation. The knowledge gained from this study will be exploited for the development of policies, which will be applicable not only to Greece but also to other countries facing similar economic condition.

Main results

The results of the questionnaire analysis are as following:

- The main providers of repair services are consumers (67%), followed by retailers (28%).
- Since the beginning of economic crisis in Greece, the number of micro-sized repairers was almost doubled.
- 52% of the responders are active in the reparability of small IT and telecommunication equipment (Category 6)
- 78% of non-repairable devices are led to recycling bins/spots.

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