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Waste Management and Re-use centers in the region of Flanders

Online Webinar “Strengthening the re-use of products in Croatia”

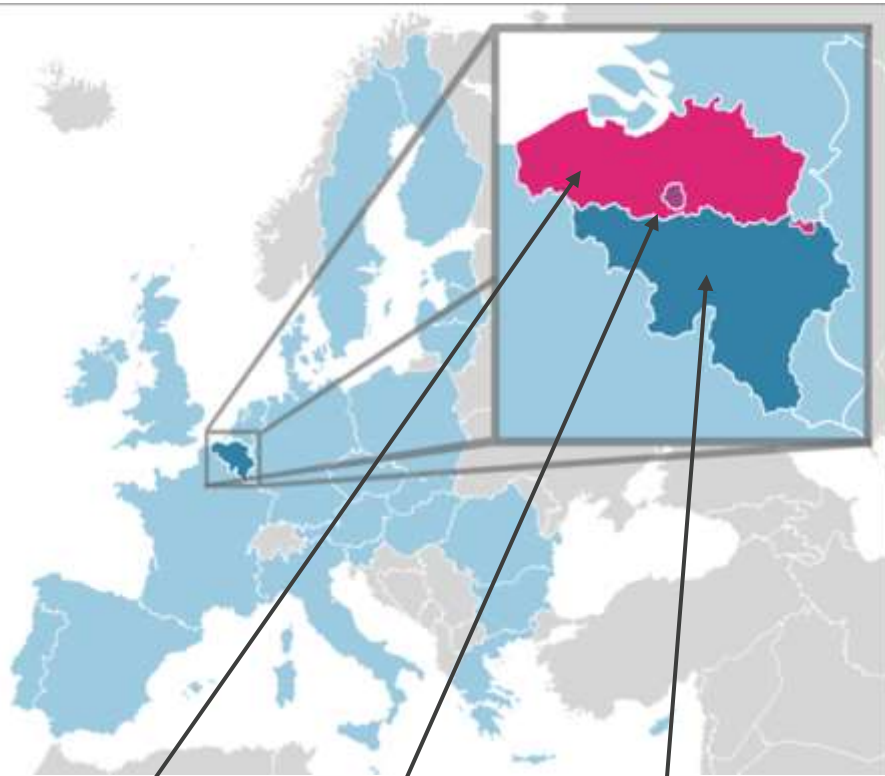
12 July 2022, 9:30 – 12:00

Ann De Boeck, Veroniek Lemahieu, Eddy Wille
Presented by Eddy Wille, senior advisor

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Region of Flanders



General information :

- Population : 6,4 M inhabitants
- Surface : 13.599 Km² (Croatia : 56.594 Km²)
- Densely populated : 472 inhab./Km² (Croatia : 74)
- Highly industrialised
- Regional policies
- Important harbours (gateway to Germany)
- Limited natural resources

Flanders

Brussels
Capital region

Wallonia



Flanders
State of the Art

TOGETHER WE
MAKE TOMORROW
MORE BEAUTIFUL

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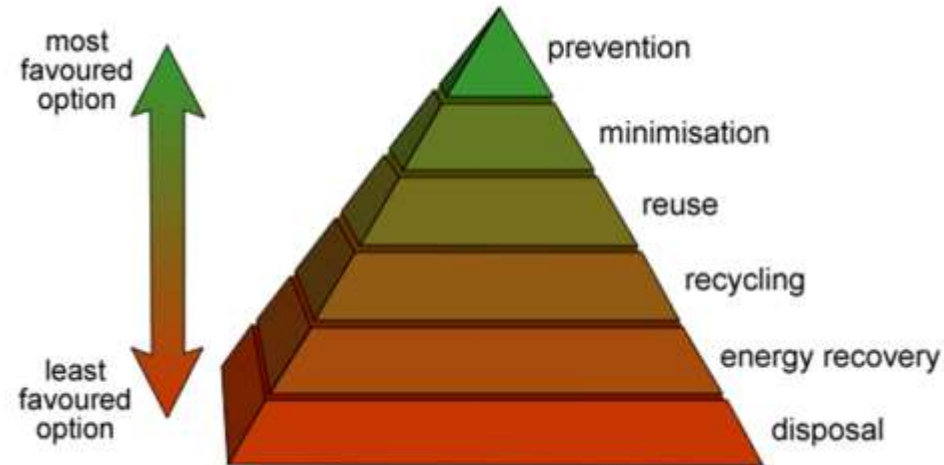
- Public Waste Agency of Flanders
- Environmental Agency headed by the Flemish Minister of Environmental Affairs
- Established in 1981 (State reform of 1980), following the new Waste Management Act of 2nd July 1981 (December 2011: Materials Management Act)
- Competent Authority for:
 - Waste Management;
 - Sustainable Material Management;
 - Circular economy
 - Soil Remediation.
- Staff: approx. 320 FTE
- Offices : Mechelen – Belgium
- ovam.vlaanderen.be



History of Waste management in Flanders

Evolution :

- 
- Waste collection & disposal
 - Waste treatment
 - Waste hierarchy
 - Material management
 - Sustainable resource management
 - Circular Economy



Remember the 7 R :
reduce, reuse, repair, recycle, recover,
reclaim, reserve

Transition from Waste to Material Management

Our Goals for a Sustainable Material Management :

- ▶ Closing material loops as efficient as possible : circular economy
- ▶ Eco-efficient production
- ▶ Innovation & Ecodesign : built to disassembly
- ▶ Stimulate 'Green Consumption'
- ▶ Order in own house : green procurement

Transition : **Cradle to grave**  **Cradle to cradle**

“Upgrading the hardware is not difficult at all. It is way more difficult to change people’s mindsets and get them to embrace new systems.” (Song Gang, director Science and Technology Information Center of Beijing City Administration)

Figures on household waste

Household waste per inhabitant of Flanders

The amount of residual waste we produce is decreasing much more slowly than the waste that is collected separately. Therefore, OVAM wants to improve separate collection even more.

2007

2020

555 KG

476 KG



400 KG

329 KG

- 71 KG



Collected separately

Collected separately

155 KG

147 KG

- 8 KG



Residual waste

Residual waste

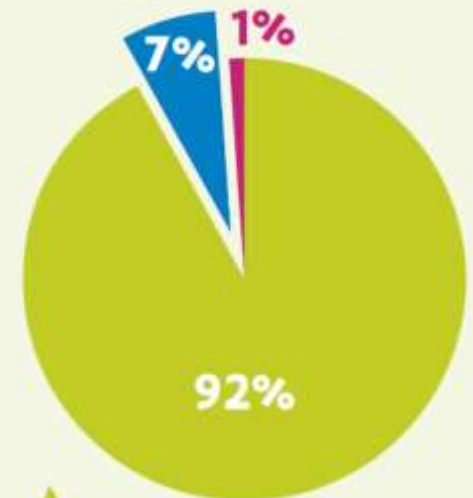


How is residual household waste processed?

950,000 TONNES



This is the amount of non-separated residual waste collected in Flanders each year.



incinerated with energy recuperation



dried or separated



to landfill site

How much food are we wasting?

23 KG



Flemish consumers waste up to 23 kg of food per person each year.

94-142 million kilograms



For Flanders as a whole the amount is between 94 and 142 million kilograms.

With this amount of food 30,000 football teams can be fed for one year.

Figures on household waste

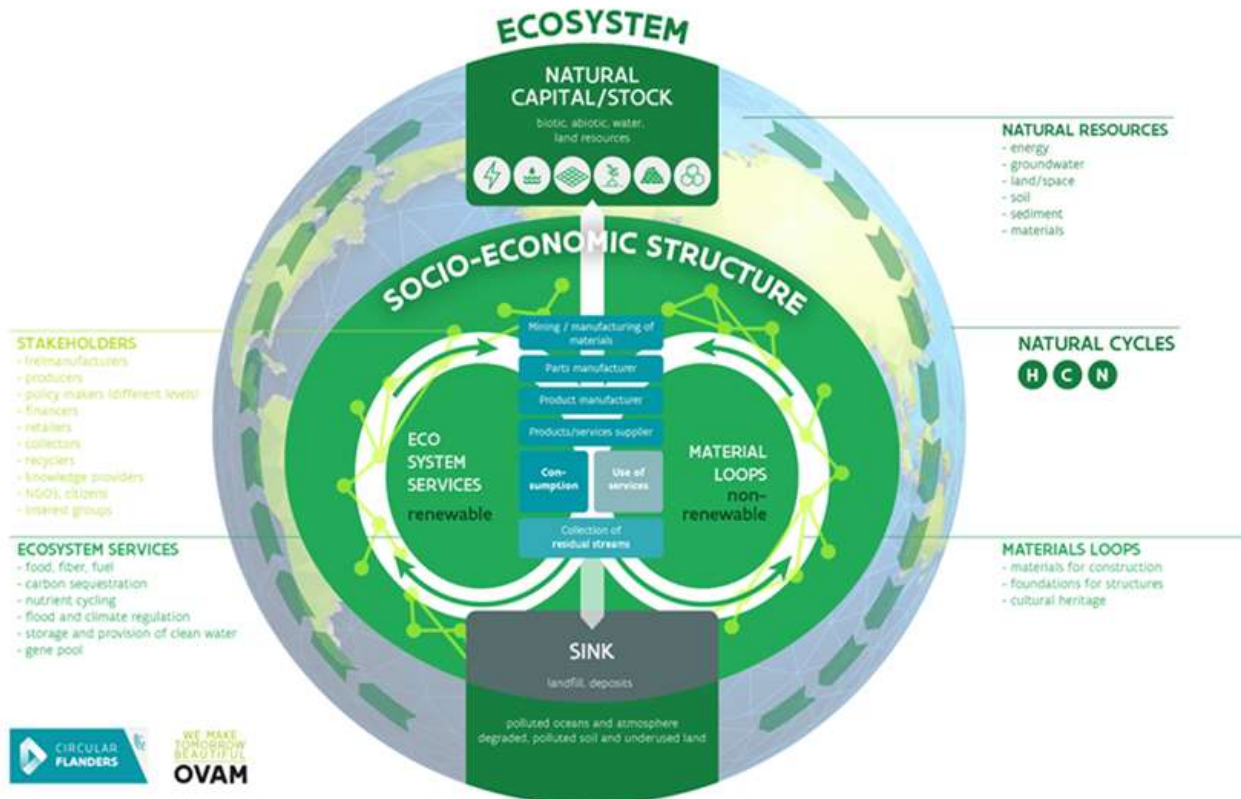


Since 1997 → more waste collected source-separated than residual waste
 → LANDFILLING IS HISTORY (<1%)
 Strong focus on the reduction of residual waste

Linear to circular economy

SOIL AND LAND

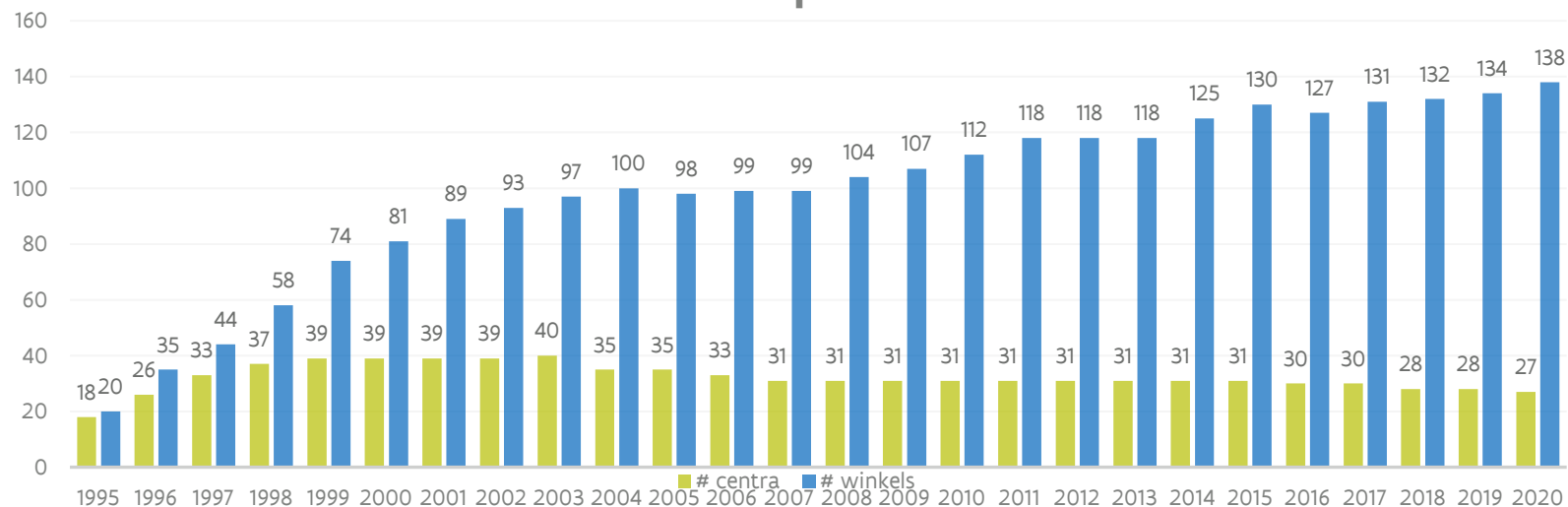
IN THE NATURAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CYCLES



Re-use centres in Flanders

→ >25 years of experience

Centres & shops 1995-2020



Pillars of Flanders' re-use sector

Environmental protection

- Preventing waste generation
- Sold re-usable goods → reduction of 65.000 tons CO2

Social employment

- Employment for low-skilled and long-term jobless workers
- Job, training and future prospects to over 4 572 FTE

Social protection

- Affordable quality household goods for everyone

Key success factor 1

Link between re-use & social employment

Re-use ↔ social and circular employment

- ▶ Most re-use centres are social economy companies subsidized by the department of Work & Social Economy



Key success factor 2

Embedding of the re-use centres into the Flemish waste policy & into the local waste policy

Flemish waste policy & local waste policy

► Municipal solid waste policy

- Materials Decree
- Municipal solid waste management plans
- Integration of the re-use centres in the take-back obligation of the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE)
- Re-use and re-use centres in EPR schemes



Flemish waste policy & local waste policy

- ▶ Operating area's → avoiding unnecessary competition & stimulating cooperation – situation 2016



Key success factor 3

Federation of Flemish re-use centers

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Strong umbrella organization

- ▶ unite nearly all re-use centers
- ▶ driving force behind the development of the re-use centers in Flanders



Strong umbrella organization

- ▶ **Support re-use centres in their professionalization**
- ▶ **Exchange of information & experience between re-use centres**
- ▶ **Standardization of monitoring & reporting systems in partnership with the OVAM**
- ▶ **Representation on discussion fora with government (OVAM), local authorities, policy makers & industry**

Key success factor 4

Continue professionalization → consolidate the position achieved within the municipal solid waste policy

Professionalization



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Professionalization

- ▶ **Strong branding!**

- In the beginning struggle with the image 'Poor folk outlet' → creation of a common brand



Professionalization

- ▶ Cooperation with professional advertising agencies for public awareness raising & information campaigns



Professionalization



Key success factor 5

Measurement is key to knowledge & management

Measurement



- ▶ **Data monitoring & reporting from the early stages**
- ▶ **Uniform weight tables (worked out by the OVAM in corporation with the federation to measure re-use percentages/targets)**
- ▶ **Annual reporting of data to the authorities**
- ▶ **Further policy development of the sector and integration in the waste policy**
- ▶ **Benchmarking and exchange of information between re-use centres**
- ▶ **Calculation tonnage fee for local authorities**

Some results 2020



► Collection per inhabitant: $\pm 11,3$ kg

Delivered by the citizen at the re-use shops	40%
Collected door-to-door on demand by the re-use shops	28%
Collected at the civic amenity site	19,5%
Other channels	12,5%

Collection of re-usable goods from households 2019 - 2020 (= Covid impact)

▶ Collection

→ 2019 - 87 571 - 13,29 kg /capita

→ 2020 - 74 892 - 11,3 kg /capita

▶ Collection methods :

→ brought to the centres, collected at home, recycling yard, containers for textile en WEEE, collection of WEEE at distribution points

▶ Brought to the centres : 39 606 ton or 53%

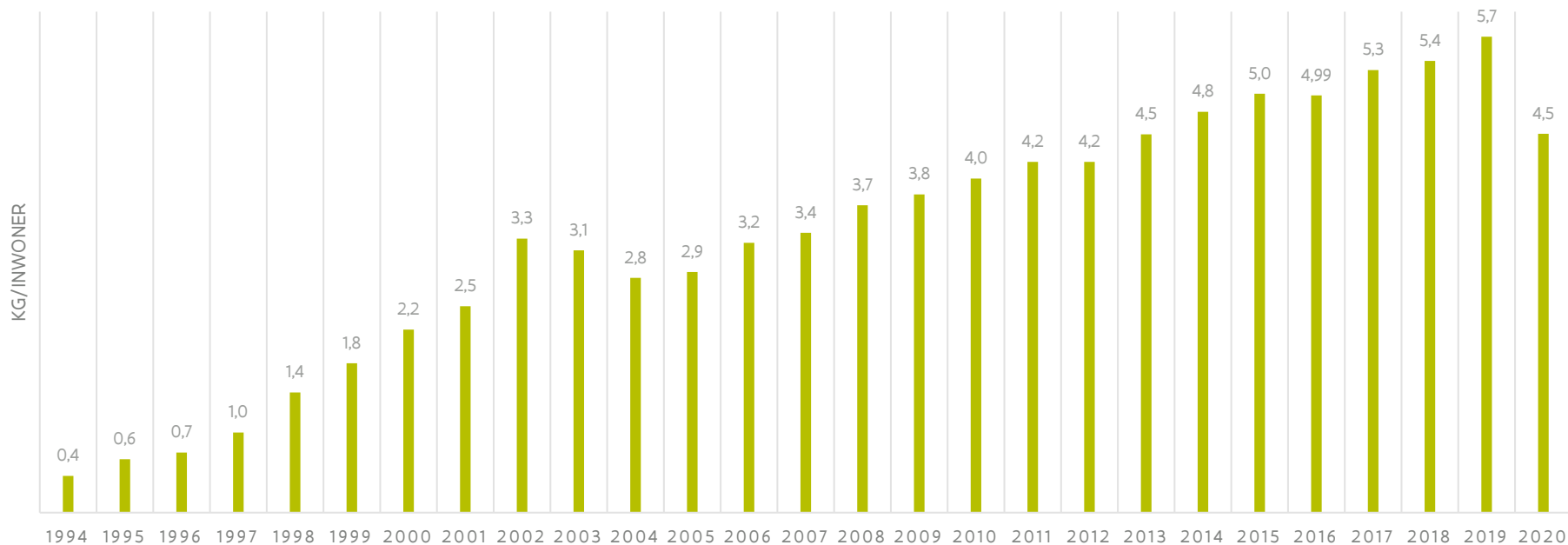
▶ Collected at home : 13 505 ton or 18% (Covid impact)

▶ Collected a recycling yard : 13 516 ton or 18%

Some results

- ▶ Target 2022 for the sector : average of 7 kg/capita sold of re-usable goods
- ▶ 2019 : 5,7 kg/capita – 2020 : 4,5 kg/capita

RE-USE PER CAPITA



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Collection by productgroups in tonnes

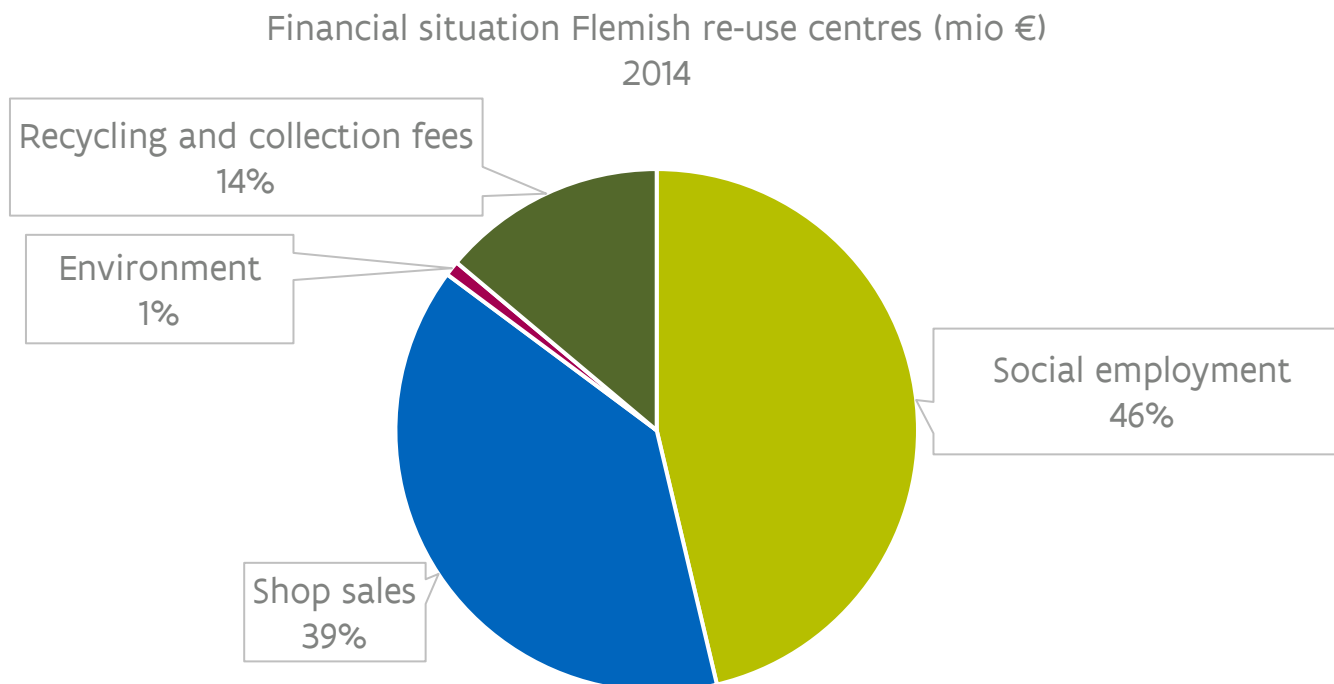
IN - Fracties (Tonnes)							
	Productgroups	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
IN	WEE	18.256	18.159	18.243	17.721	18.874	17.383
IN	Furniture	20.295	21.395	21.847	23.098	23.869	17.573
IN	Textile	10.561	13.193	14.655	14.844	15.856	14.560
IN	Household & Leisure	17.920	19.817	22.569	24.192	27.372	23.899
IN	Various goods	1.015	1.220	1.222	1.307	1.533	1.232
IN	Totaal - Fracties	68.048	73.784	78.537	81.162	87.504	74.648

Sold goods by productgroups in tonnes

HGB - Fracties (Tonnes)							
	Productgroups	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
HGB	WEE	1.948	1.920	1.876	2.105	2.264	1.856
HGB	Furniture	14.605	14.027	14.462	14.555	14.562	11.492
HGB	Textile	3.154	3.672	3.731	3.745	3.485	3.299
HGB	Household & Leisure	11.271	12.288	14.334	14.288	15.279	13.039
HGB	Various	362	448	399	409	455	385
HGB	Totaal	31.341	32.355	34.803	35.102	36.045	30.071

Some results

► Financial situation Flemish re-use sector (2014)



Some results Re-use percentage

- Percentage of re-used / sold goods versus collected goods
- Percentage influenced by quality of product, potential to be sold even at low prices, reparability, demand, size, local situation

HGB-% - Productgroups	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
HGB-% WEE	11%	11%	10%	12%	12%	11%
HGB-% Furniture	72%	66%	66%	63%	61%	65%
HGB-% Textile	30%	28%	25%	25%	22%	23%
HGB-% Household & Leisure	63%	62%	64%	59%	56%	55%
HGB-% Various	36%	37%	33%	31%	30%	31%

Future developments

- **Research for new initiatives related to closing the material loops and extend services to clients : repair, share, renting, home delivery,...**
- **Kilo sale**
 - Large volumes of low quality textile that cannot be sold in the regular shops
- **Upcycling**
 - Non reusable goods and material are used to manufacture new products
- **Resourcelab**
 - Young designers work together with reuse centres and create unique design products

**Thank you for your
attention
Any questions?**

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