



**WINPOL**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
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# Re-Use Box – a new collection system developed in the city of Graz/Styria

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Department: Waste & Resources Management  
Project SUBTRACT

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Thematic Seminar 2

“Innovative Models for Waste Collection, Prevention and Recycling”

# Problem addressed

- Demand for re-use goods is higher than supply.
- Too many small re-use goods end up in the residual waste bins of households.
  - Usable re-use goods are placed in recycling containers depending on the material; e.g:
    - Books in waste paper containers
    - Tools in scrap metal containers
    - Children's toys in plastic container
    - High-quality textiles in textile collection containers
- The value of re-use goods is 10 times higher than that of recycled goods.
- 1 kg re-use saves 14 kg waste in production

# Context:

- The Re-Use Box was developed as part of the Interreg Central Europe project CERREC.
- The Re-Use Box was the result of a discussion in the stakeholder group Graz (Styria/Austria) - Participants:
  - Environmental Office of the City of Graz
  - Public waste management company HOLDING Graz
  - Social enterprises running reuse shops (BAN, Carla)
  - ARGE - Association for Waste Prevention
  - University of Graz - Institute of Systems Sciences, Innovation and Sustainability Research
- The Re-Use Box was introduced for the first time as a new collection system for small re-use goods in the city of Graz.



# Implementation

- Technical development by ARGE
  - Size: 510 \* 280 \* 410 mm
  - New pallet format: 80 \* 90 cm  
= 45 pallets / truck  
= 11.250 pieces
  - Costs: ~1 € / box
- First introduced in 2014 ongoing distributing and collection of Re-Use Boxes
- Leaflet for information purposes
- Introductory actions by waste advisors
- School competition with award ceremony



**WARUM RE-USE?**

- Die Umwelt wird geschont: weniger Rohstoffe werden für Neuprodukte verwendet, das Abfallaufkommen wird reduziert.
- Höheres Angebot an leistbaren und qualitativ geprüften Produkten.
- Schaffung von Arbeitsplätzen, speziell im Bereich der Sozialwirtschaft.
- Noch verwendbare Gegenstände werden nicht ins Ausland transportiert und die Wertschöpfung bleibt in Österreich.

**WAS IST DIE RE-USE BOX?**

- Sammelsystem für wiederverwendbare Gegenstände
- Eine stabile Kartonbox zur Sammlung von wiederverwendbaren Gegenständen wie Bücher, Geschirre, Werkzeug, Spielzeug, Sportartikel, Elektrogeräte, usw.

**WO BEKOMME ICH DIE RE-USE BOX?**

Die Re-Use Box erhalten Sie bei folgenden Ausgabe-/Rücknahmestellen, solange der Vorrat reicht:

- **Carla Re-Use Shops** in Graz: Jakoministraße 10, Zinzendorfsgasse 14, Merzlgasse 27, Herrgottweggasse 117, Karl-Morre-Straße 68, Keplerstraße 38, Petersgasse 78, Lindengasse 18a, Carla & Paul Grabenstraße 39
- **Servicestellen der Stadt Graz** (nur Ausgabestellen) - Andritzer Reichsstraße 38, Bahnhofgürtel 85, Conrad-von-Hötzendorf Straße 104, Kärmer Straße 411, St. Peter Hauptstraße 85, Schmiedgasse 26, Stiftingalstraße 3

Das Land Steiermark  
umwelt.graz.at  
GRAZ

carla

# Implementation



# Evidence of success:

- 40.000 Boxes provided in the initial phase in the City of Graz
- 500 tons of small reuse items collected
- No residual waste was brought into the boxes
- The quality of collected goods was excellent
- The idea of the Re-Use Box spread rapidly in Austria and also in Europe.
  - Several Waste Management Associations in Styria
  - Federal State Burgenland
  - Federal State Upper Austria (ReVital Box)
  - City of Kufstein in Tyrol

# Re-Use Box in Europe:

- Recyclingbörse Herford





# Re-Use Box in Europe:

- Insieme Vicenza (social cooperative)



# Re-Use Box in Europe:

- Waste management association Kempten / Germany



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWvAD8vFMYQ>

# Contacts / Information:

<https://www.re-use.at/>

<https://www.zak-kempten.de/zak-box.html>

<https://www.umwelt.graz.at/cms/beitrag/10234315/4849892/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWvAD8vFMYQ>

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# Thank you!

Questions welcome



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