

New EU-funded project to enhance collection of small electric and electronic devices and portable batteries

LIFE-ECOSWEEE: Enhancing collection of small WEEE and batteries

For immediate release

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Every electric or electronic product and battery not collected represents a missed opportunity. The materials in the WEEE that are not collected will not be available for manufacturing new products. New materials may have to be mined instead, which is a lot more damaging for biodiversity and the environment at large. Even after two decades of WEEE legislation the Member States are falling short of achieving the minimum European Union collection rate of 65% of products placed on the market in the three preceding years. Recognising this urgent need for improvement, the EU is committed to enhance the collection of WEEE.

The LIFE-ECOSWEEE project will introduce innovative methods and incentives to enhance the collection processes across Member States. The project will design and implement 10 new pilots across eight countries. These will test in practice a variety of collection strategies and incentives including, amongst others, deposit return systems, buyback programmes, donation and postal services.

LIFE-ECOSWEEE will also explore alternative collection routes, collaboration with online retail platforms, financial aspects, and network optimisation to enhance collection efforts. The project works in tandem with 11 such ongoing/planned initiatives led by producer responsibility organisations (PROs), further enriching the knowledge base and insights.

The project will conduct rigorous analysis, measuring the impacts and effectiveness of the actions through pre-established criteria and indicators. The findings will enable the identification of areas for improvement and provide valuable recommendations to policymakers at both the Member State and EU level. They will also contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal, the consultation process on the revision of WEEE Directive and to other legislation.

All interested stakeholders are invited to join the LIFE-ECOSWEEE community through an [online platform](#) to share their experience, knowledge and views on project progress and results, and to take part in co-designing events and initiatives during the project.

Pascal Leroy, Director General of the WEEE Forum, the project coordinator, highlights that: “The LIFE-ECOSWEEE pilots, incentive schemes and innovative strategies will teach us how to cost-effectively collect more electricals and portable batteries, allowing us to tap into more metals and critical raw materials which we need for the triple energy, digital and green transition. We will actively engage with stakeholders and thought leaders and jointly search for best practices”.

The project is co-funded by the EU under the LIFE Programme. The project started in April 2023 and has a duration of 22 months.

Project Partners:

- WASTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FORUM AISBL - WEEE Forum (Belgium)
- UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (Switzerland)
- SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA DE INOVACAO CONSULTADORIA EMPRESARIAL E FOMENTO DA INOVACAO SA (Portugal)
- APPLIANCES RECYCLING S.A. (Greece)

- ASOCIAȚIA ECOTIC (Romania)
- ELECTRÃO – ASSOCIAÇÃO DE GESTÃO DE RESÍDUOS (Portugal)
- ERION COMPLIANCE ORGANIZATION SCARL (Italy)
- STIFTUNG GEMEINSAMES RUCKNAHMESYSTEM BATTERIEN (Deutschland)
- STICHTING ORGANISATIE PRODUCENTENVERANTWOORDELIJKHEID E-WASTE NEDERLAND (Netherlands)
- ZEOS RAVNANJE Z ELEKTRICNO IN ELEKTRONSKO OPREMO DOO (Slovenia)
- WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMANT IRELAND (Ireland)
- RAMBOLL DEUTSCHLAND GMBH (Deutschland)
- ECOLOGIC (France)
- ECO-SYSTEMES (France)
- RECUPEL VZW (Belgium)
- RENAS AS (Norway)
- Foundation SENS (Switzerland)

For more information about the LIFE-ECOSWEEE project, please www.ecosweee-life.eu or [LinkedIn page](#), or contact the Project Communications Manager on info@ecosweee-life.eu.



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