

## Workshop: Develop projects and joint actions to implement reuse models and take-back systems for food packaging.

In this workshop, you will develop future projects and joint actions to implement reuse models and take-back systems for food packaging with key stakeholders from Denmark, Belgium, Portugal, and Sweden.

Innovative SMEs, knowledge institutions, public stakeholders, and other experts from different EU regions have come together to identify the most pressing challenges for the circular economy in the plastic and packaging industry. To address these challenges, they have developed new ideas and topics for joint action, which can contribute to implementing reuse and take-back systems for food packaging. By participating in this workshop, you can be part of developing the projects and planning for joint action while also building new partnerships with actors from other regions.

### Topics and ideas for joint action:

**Testing and scaling systems for reusable takeaway packaging.** This can, for example, include actions to:

- Test and implement a digital and convenient reuse system in collaboration between several stakeholders. The system should be flexible to enable adaptation to different settings and locations.
- Test decentralized take-back- and washing systems in closed-loop settings with large volumes of takeaway packaging (e.g., airports, festivals, and big events where the waste typically stays on the venue).
- Address the main barriers to take-back systems by improving consumer acceptance, efficiency, logistics, and convenience and reducing end users' prices. Projects should include a focus on replicability and scalability.

Standardization, infrastructure, labeling, and information campaigns for *retail food packaging*. This can for example, include actions to:

- Test standardized reusable packaging in collaboration with several producers and large flagship companies
- Support implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility and take-back systems through supportive infrastructure and information campaigns while ensuring these are adapted to the regional context.
- Develop and showcase examples of standardized labeling to inform and inspire future EU legislation.
- Address technological challenges, consumer acceptance, and operational issues simultaneously.

- Make realistic estimates of the investments needed to implement reuse, take back models on a systemic level, and ensure sufficient investments (including public co-financing) to test and set up systems for reuse.

Strengthening and utilizing data. This can be combined with the proposed projects above and can, for example include actions to:

- Share data and best practices from pilot projects and previous implementation of reuse/take back systems for food packaging in different contexts.
- Use data to select waste streams and locations with high impact. For example, it can be beneficial to choose locations with already existing infrastructure, or waste streams where the recycling rates are low.
- Ensure transparency. This can for example be done by including data on how many times a packaging item should be reused before the environmental impact is better than that of single use packaging.
- Analyse the differences between existing deposit/return systems in different countries and regions.
- Assess how much of the plastic which is sorted for recycling that is actually being recycled.

If you want to engage in joint actions and projects within some of these topics, this workshop is for you!

### This workshop is especially relevant for you if you are

- A technology provider, producer or retailer
- An operator who is currently using single use packaging, but has a wish to learn about reuse packaging systems (e.g. processes, software, operations etc.)
- Working with billing software, delivery services or payment gateways/processors, as these are key to enable the implementation of solutions.
- Working with track and trace platforms
- A logistics or washing provider
- A producer responsibility organisation
- A funding agency or public authority who can co-finance the deployment of reuse infrastructure
- A policymaker
- A consumer organisation or media who can raise awareness among consumers
- Or another organization with interest in joining future projects on reuse and take back systems!

### Agenda

- Introduction
- Cross regional challenges for implementation of reuse and take back systems for take away and retail food packaging
- Hear which topics for future projects and actions that have been suggested by actors from Denmark, Belgium, Portugal and Sweden
- Exercise 1: Co-develop action plans for joint projects within circular take away packaging
- Exercise 2: Co-develop action plans for joint projects within circular retail food packaging

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- Financing of joint projects
  - Introduction to the International Cleantech Network
  - Next steps for engaging in future projects

### About the project 3R-Connect

The workshop is part of the project 3R Connect - Reduce, Reuse and Rethink. The project is funded by the **European Union** and facilitated by CLEAN, Flux50 and Smart Waste Portugal. The purpose of the project is to:

- Map and analyze regional capacities and potentials for circular economy
- Identify key value chains, technologies and innovation areas
- Develop plans for new cross-regional projects focusing on R&D, matchmaking, new value chains, capacity building, knowledge exchange, pilot & demonstration, public procurement etc.

To read more about the project, [click here](#)

You can also **join [this online platform](#)** to see the outcomes from previous workshops and engage with some of the actors, who were involved in the development of the suggested project topics.

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