



WOODCIRCLE



Co-funded by the European Union

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WOODCircle (2022 - 2024) - Dual teaching and training for green and circular skills in the wood and furniture sectors for young European students and workers.

NEWSLETTER 3

15/03/2024



MJUK, FINLAND

MJUK: **Responsible consumption** - a second life for furniture. Quality **second-hand furniture** for the prosperity of our planet.

In **2019**, in Helsinki, a bold company called Mjuk is being set up with a clear mission: **to counter the over-consumption of new furniture**, which is partly responsible for the depletion of natural resources and seasonal price inflation. Mjuk's aim is to make second-hand furniture more attractive, in line with the principles of the **circular economy**. Its CEO, Rickard Zilliacus, wants to shake up the furniture industry by imposing a **new practical, responsible and accessible way** of selling and/or buying second-hand furniture with the best value for money.

In Europe today, furniture accounts for a major proportion of the waste deposited at waste collection centres, particularly office furniture, **90%** of which is **incinerated despite being in perfect condition**.

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SECOND TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING HELD IN MILAN

On the **13th- 14th of November 2023**, the **WOODCircle's 6 project partners** met at FederlegnoArredo's venue in **Milan** to discuss the project's state of art and to plan together the future steps.

The Woodcircle project, funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ program, aims at **creating an online course for the training of the Woodworker expert in Circular Economy**.

Started in **October 2022**, the project is now at its halfway point: after the definition of the **skills, competencies and knowledges** of the professional profile, the partners are now working at the **development of the online training materials**, that will be focused on topics concerning **Circular Economy, Sustainable materials, Circular design, waste and resources management**.

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HOW IS THE WOODCIRCLE PROJECT GOING: PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The project implementation is **progressing well** according to the **planned workplan**. The first key step of the project, the preparation of the deliverable D2.1 Desk research and market needs, for a **Woodworker competent** in Sustainability and Circular Economy, was properly concluded. This document includes key information for the **development of the following project** documents and activities, as they contain information about the challenges and the state of the art of **Circular Economy across Europe** in general, and specifically in **the five countries** involved. It presents as well the **skills, competences and knowledge required by the wood and furniture industry** affected by the **green transition** in general and specifically for two key occupational profile of the sector: **Cabinet-maker and related workers, and Furniture assembler**.

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TRAINING CENTERS FOR THE WOOD-FURNITURE SECTOR TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH AND INNOVATION OF THE INDUSTRY

In the ever-evolving world of the wood-furniture industry which increasingly places emphasis on **sustainability** and **innovation**, the training centers, such as ITS and VET centers, are emerging as **essential pillars** for the success of the sector and as creators of talent and knowledge. These centers of excellence are playing a key role in training a new generation of **highly skilled professionals**, ensuring the competitiveness and prosperity of the industry. The wood furniture industry is known for its **tradition of craftsmanship** and its commitment to quality, but the landscape is changing rapidly. **Technological innovation** and sustainability are driving the transformation of the sector, **requiring increasingly advanced skills**. In response to this evolution, training centers are **providing educational programs** to prepare students for these challenges.

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