



GOOD PRACTICE BRUSSELS:

SUBSIDIES TO SOCIAL ECONOMY

November 2014



Content table

1.	General information on the good practice (GP)	3
1.1	General information	3
1.2	Context	4
1.3	Short description	4
1.4	Objective	4
1.5	Method used to identify the good practice	4
1.6	External factors	5
2.	Implementation	5
2.1	Preparation phase	5
2.2	Technical implementation	5
2.3	Communicative implementation	5
2.4	Organisations	6
2.5	Key success factors	6
2.6	Resources	6
3.	Results	6
3.1	Monitoring of the progress of the GP	6
3.2	Other results	7
4.	Lessons learned	7
4.1	Negative effects	7
4.2	Challenges	8
5.	Pictures and other documentation	8
6.	Further information	8
7.	Other regions with similar good practices	8

1. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE GOOD PRACTICE (GP)

1.1 General information

Region	Brussels
Country	Belgium
Short name of the good practice	Subsidies to social economy
Geographical level of implementation (country, region, municipality...)	Brussels Region
Target group	Entreprises (SME)
Date of implementation/duration	2005 on going
Waste stream (and subcategory)	Bulky waste (furnitures), WEEE, textiles
Legal framework	Arrêté du 16 juillet 2010
Main local instruments involved	Subsidy
Scale (pilot/partially roll out /roll out)	
Initiator/coordinator	Brussels Environment
Demography	
Population	1 138 000
Number of households	550 000
Area (km ²)	161
Population density (number of inhabitants/km ²)	7 000
General waste data (Not necessarily related to the GP but to give some background information. Data about the GP should be included under 3.1) ^[PM1]	
Year of the following waste data	
Sum of all waste streams excl. residual & bulky waste (kg/inhabitant/year) (Use indicator 1 or 2 from the R4R Online Tool)	
Residual waste (including sorting residues) (kg/inhabitant/year) (Use indicator 8 or 9 from	

the R4R Online Tool)	
Total waste (add up the previous two)	
Sum of all waste streams excl. residual & bulky waste to DREC (kg/inhabitant/year) (Use indicator 3 of the R4R Online Tool)	

1.2 Context

Since the 90's, the Brussels region financially supports social economy associations acting in the reuse and recycling sector. In 2005^[PM2], Brussels adopted the "arrêté du Gouvernement de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale du 16 juillet 2010 relatif à l'agrément et au subventionnement des associations sans but lucratif et des sociétés à finalité sociale actives dans le secteur du réemploi et du recyclage (MB 26/10/2010).

1.3 Short description

A financial support is provided to social economy actors according to the quantities of waste collected and recycled and products reused. The financial support also aims at making these activities self-supporting in the long term and well organised via an agreement procedure.

1.4 Objective

The goals of the subsidies are the followings:

- Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and incinerator;
- Limit consumption of raw material and energy needed to produce new goods;
- Provide job and training to people socially marginalised;
- Provide access to goods and equipment to people with low level of income;
- Improve recovery rates of goods and products through reuse and recycling.

1.5 Method used to identify the good practice

- Expert judgement
- Results of the initiative

Data and proofs about collection and recycling are sent by the beneficiary of the subsidy to Brussels Environment. Follow-up is also ensured via an annual meeting and field visits.

1.6 External factors

Is there a link between the GP and an external factor? Is the GP implemented as a solution for a problem caused by a certain external factor? [PM3]

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Preparation phase

The regulation setting up the subsidy was prepared with inputs from meetings and in agreement with the social economy sector of the Brussels region.

2.2 Technical implementation

Four categories of items are subsidised: textile, bulky waste, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and printer related consumable goods.

Some of those categories, for which public collection is not working on Brussels, are subsidised based on the quantity of collected material: WEEE and bulky waste at 15€/tonne.

On top of that, all categories are subsidised based on the quantity of reused product (in 2014: 62€/tonne of reused textile, 60€/tonne of reused bulky items and EEE items). The quantity of recycled material is also subsidised, but at a lower price and with a pre-established level in order to promote reuse and only for textile and bulky waste.

An increase in the subsidy is also foreseen in case the reuse rate increases from one year to the next.

Subsidy to printer related consumable good is only granted on the basis of reused items (3€/laser toner and 1€/ink jet toner).

2.3 Communicative implementation [PM4]

2.4 Organisations

In Brussels, five associations are currently active and accredited for collection and management of textile, bulky waste and WEEE: Oxfam, les Petits Riens, La Poudrière, Terre and the Salvation Army. A sixth organisation, GIGA Services, is accredited for reuse of printer related consumable good.

2.5 Key success factors

- Maintained financial support;
- Obligations to reach objectives in terms of reuse and recycling rates;
- Monitoring and follow-up of subsidised associations by the administration and the association Ressources federating all subsidised associations;
- Answer to an environmental and social need;
- Concrete funding provided after the activities, rewarding accomplished efforts.

2.6 Resources

The recurring subsidy is financed by the Brussels Region^[PM5].

3. RESULTS

3.1 Monitoring of the progress of the GP

Textile:

Textile collection significantly increased since 2005: from 2500 tonnes collected in 2005 to about 4000 tonnes in 2012, meaning an increase of 55%.

The reuse rate is 68% and the recycling rate is 17%, meaning 85% of recovery and valorisation.

WEEE and bulky waste:

In 2012 in Brussels, 700 tonnes of WEEE were collected by social economy associations reaching a reuse rate of 44% and a recycling rate of 55% (meaning a 99% recovery and valorization rate).

In 2012 in Brussels, about 2000 tonnes of bulky waste were collected by social economy associations reaching a reuse rate of 42% and a recycling rate of 28% (meaning a 70% recovery and valorization rate)..

However, no significant increase in the collected quantity of WEEE and bulky waste has been demonstrated since 2005.

Printer related consumable goods:

Since the implementation of the subsidy for this type of waste, about 20000 laser toner were collected every year with a reuse rate of about 75%.

3.2 Other results

Job creation for socially marginalised people

4. LESSONS LEARNED

4.1 Negative effects

- A negative consequence can appear if an association increases the quantity of items collected and reused but reduces the share of reused items compared to the collected quantity, since the subsidy will therefore be denied for this association;
- The overall reduction in the quality of goods and products has an impact on the reuse rate;
- The control process of association applying for the subsidy could be improved.

4.2 Challenges

Reviewing the subsidy regulation in order to:

- Address above mentioned negative effects;
- Consider subsidy only for the quantity of items reused, without taking into consideration any reuse share compared to the quantity of collected items, which would promote reuse activities;
- Allow the subsidy for new material fractions (construction and demolition waste for instance).

5. PICTURES AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION

Please add pictures and other documentation (drawings, logo's, advertisements...) about the good practice. [PM6]

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

Organisation	
Address	
Contact person	
Phone	
E-mail address	
Website	
Others [PM7]	

7. OTHER REGIONS WITH SIMILAR GOOD PRACTICES

The following partners of the R4R-project have a good practice similar to the good practice described in this factsheet:

Organisation	
--------------	--

Address	
Region	
Country	
Contact person:	
Phone	
E-mail address	
Website	
Others	
Short description of the main differences.	

REGIONS FOR RECYCLING

