

# Value chain collaboration in public procurement of ICT and phones and Value chain collaboration in public procurement of textiles

**Summary of Circular Shift webinars disseminating the findings of the project VCC needs assessment report**



Deliverable 1.2.3

## Organisation of webinars

As part of work package 1 “Value chain collaboration”, the Interreg North-West Europe Circular Shift project produced a report on the needs, barriers, and knowledge gaps to fostering value chain collaboration in the circular procurement of two product categories: ICT/phones and textiles (Deliverable 1.2.2). To disseminate the findings of this desk research, Circular Shift organised two webinars, one per product category.

### Structure of ICT/phones webinar

“Value chain collaboration in public procurement of ICT and phones” took place on 30 April 2026 from 10:30 – 12:00 CEST. The recording of the webinar is available [online](#).

Structurally, the webinar was organised to feature a preliminary presentation of the Circular Shift project and report, followed by two case studies represented in the desk research: one from Ireland and one from Belgium. During the former, titled “Developing a large-scale contract for remanufactured laptops”, three guest speakers presented the perspectives of the Office of Government Procurement, Circular Computing, and Green IT. Then, the City of Mechelen was joined by Close the Gap and Circular IT to present “End-of-life strategies for laptops with social impact”. The idea with both case studies was to provide a holistic account of value chain collaboration being applied in practice.

### Structure of textiles webinar

“Value chain collaboration in public procurement of textiles” took place on 13 May 2026 from 10:30 – 12:00 CEST. The recording of the webinar is available [online](#).

This webinar was also organised to first present the Circular Shift project and report. Then, three case studies were presented by three different speakers. During the first, the City of Groningen presented “Developing a circular textile product from local post-consumer textile waste in the Netherlands”. Second, the CiLAB Collective presented “Repair and upcycling of professional workwear in Belgium”. Finally, Reseco presented a case by Rennes Metropole: “Upcycling workwear into children’s outdoor clothing in France”. As in the first webinar, the idea was to provide a holistic account of value chain collaboration taking place in practice. However, since multiple speakers were not available for each case, it was decided to feature three cases from three countries and as many stages of the value chain.

## Agendas of webinars

### ICT/phones webinar

10.30 – 10:35

#### **Welcome and introduction and presentation of the Circular Shift project**

Dominic Tscherny (ACR+)

10:35-10:45

#### **Opportunities for VCC in the public procurement of ICT/phones**

Marieke Weerdesteijn (Rijkswaterstaat), Anita Lombardo (ACR+)

10:45 - 11:10

#### **Developing a large-scale contract for remanufactured laptops: the case of Ireland**

Erica Hegarty (Office of Government Procurement), Steve Haskew (Circular Computing), Anthony O'Dea (GreenIT)

11:10 - 11:30

#### **End-of-life strategies for laptops with social impact: the case of Mechelen, Belgium**

Julie Poppe (City of Mechelen), Didier Appels (Close the Gap, CircularIT)

11:30 - 11:45

#### **Conclusions and recommendations for collaboration across the ICT value chain**

11:45 - 12:00

#### **Q&A and closing**

### Textiles webinar

10.30 - 10.35

#### **Welcome and introduction and presentation of the Circular Shift project**

Dominic Tscherny (ACR+)

10.35 - 10.45

#### **Opportunities for VCC in the public procurement of textiles**

Lisanne van 't Hoff (Rijkswaterstaat), Anita Lombardo (ACR+)

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10.45 - 11.05

**Developing a circular textile product from local post-consumer textile waste in the Netherlands**

Carolina Vogel (City of Groningen)

11.05 - 11.25

**Repair and upcycling of professional workwear in Belgium**

Jan Merckx (CiLAB Collective)

11.25 - 11.40

**Upcycling workwear into children's outdoor clothing in France**

Audrey Bonabeau (Reseco)

11.40 - 12.00

**Q&A and Conclusions and recommendations for collaboration across the textiles value chain**

## Discussion held during webinars

*These summaries do not intend to fully explain the cases presented across the two webinars; such information is adequately referenced in the desk research itself. Below, the discussion during the webinars will be summarised instead.*

Both webinars began with an introduction to the Circular Shift project, the concept of value chain collaboration, and general findings of the needs assessment report in relation to each product category. Then, cases were discussed.

### ICT/phones webinar

Ms. Hegarty presented the Irish Office of Government Procurement's (OGP) experience of developing and delivering a national framework for remanufactured enterprise-grade laptops. Her presentation covered why the OGP took this approach, how they brought it to the market, and what it demonstrates about the role of procurement in advancing sustainability without compromising on quality, security, or value for money.

Mr. Haskew reflected that the adoption of circular ICT equipment necessarily required collaboration between the OGP and market actors. Without the OGP, Circular Computing, and Green IT coming together, it would not be possible to translate the theme of sustainability into the category of technology.

Mr. O'Dea expressed that this approach is unfamiliar to many buyers. It is key to convey that remanufactured devices are new and should be considered as new. Providing reassurance about security, legal warranties, and user experience is all important.

From the audience, Ms. Poppe asked about the tendering process: "How many suppliers were able to react and was there a lot of competition?" Ms. Hegarty explained that, due to the OGP's definition of remanufactured and the independent insurance assessments they required, it ended up as a single supplier framework.

Ms. Poppe began presenting the second case with the City of Mechelen's perspective. Motivated by the legal depreciation of laptops in Belgium, the city is donating old devices to organisations with social impact. However, they also want to verify this downstream impact. Collaboration with local circular businesses is part of the solution.

Mr. Appels noted that 80% of a device's pollution comes from its production and are able to make a second life from 75% of devices. Most of what Close the Gap does takes

place in developing countries, where the social impact is great. CircularIT also works with Digital for Youth which focuses on Belgian youth.

From the audience, a question asked what happens to the remanufactured laptops in Ireland after their use. Ms. Hegarty responded that they don't currently have a mechanism for that because none of the devices have come to end-of-life yet, but they are now considering whether remanufacturing again is an option. Mr. Appels added that his company was often able to give a third life. Mr. Haskew referred to end-of-use as opposed to end-of-life, saying that governments instigating circularity in one budget can reduce costs in others, if devices are passed to another spending area, e.g. from government buildings to public schools.

Ms. Weerdesteijn asked whether the standard use time of laptops can be extended during second or third life, which Mr. Appels says is context dependent; devices staying in Belgium can last longer than those in Congo operating in different climates and facilities. But they can extend a 3-year-old device with 4-8 more years. Mr. Haskew adds that this is why understanding the end needs of users is key. Mr. O'Dea contributes that software support to operating systems becomes a big factor after a few years.

Responding to questions about the origin of remanufactured devices, Mr. Haskew explained that his company sources around 20,000 devices/month from IT asset disposal companies and large corporate leasing contracts where devices return after fixed periods (usually 36–48 months). He pointed out that original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are bound by optimised just-in-time global supply chains, which makes quick adoption of circular models risky, though they are now extending warranties and exploring circular design. Mr. Appels added that OEMs often lack spare parts to support repairs, showing a gap in the market. Mr. Haskew put that government contracts de-risk the transition for OEMs and suppliers by guaranteeing demand.

A question about how EPR affects value chains and financing was answered by Mr. Murray of the audience, who explained that in Ireland and Belgium, EPR collection has focused mainly on household electronics through civic amenity sites and retailers, but that relatively little is recovered this way, and often in poor condition. He described efforts to create secure collection points to channel devices toward reuse partners. Mr. O'Dea added that consumer reluctance to return data-bearing devices and exposure to weather at collection sites remain key barriers to improving recovery rates.

## Textiles webinar

Ms. Vogel presented the City of Groningen's approach to circular textile procurement from local post-consumer waste, in partnership with the social enterprise ReBlend and a local textile hub. A seven-year, EUR 10 M tender for workwear asked bidders to integrate local circular yarns (from jeans, t-shirts, and sweater fabrics, reaching up to 100% recycled content for some products) rather than imposing rigid requirements. This drew seven bidders, including specialist and generalist suppliers, and is now in implementation. Recommendations from the process included market consultations prior to tendering, close collaboration between internal departments (procurement, contract management, and circular economy specialists), and clearly scoped contracts with regular progress reviews.

Mr. Merckx described CiLAB's reversed business model in which only production work is compensated alongside a parallel non-profit structure with social goals. He traced CiLAB's growth from small-scale upcycling and student collaborations to industrial partnerships with companies such as Decathlon, DHL, Cambio, and the Belgian retailer JBC, including ongoing repair services and product redesign work with these clients to improve repairability from the design outset. Mr. Merckx linked this work to EU legislation such as the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and Digital Product Passports, emphasising the need for requirements to support repairability.

Ms. Bonabeau presented Rennes Métropole's case of socially responsible upcycling of municipal workwear. Cross-departmental consultation led the city to identify a need for children's outdoor clothing and award a contract to transform old high-visibility vests and other municipal workwear into items for daycare centres. After one year, roughly 210 items (about 50% of the target) were produced, with similar approaches being explored for fire department and postal service uniforms. Ms. Bonabeau listed challenges such as the enterprise requiring help throughout the procurement process, ultimately resolved through a simplified contract and a new project management role.

From the audience, Ms. Houttequiet asked about balancing recycled content with safety and durability requirements. Ms. Vogel explained that Groningen deliberately chose categories like t-shirts, sweaters, and jeans without strict technical demands, achieving up to 100% recycled jeans, but did not apply this to protective workwear. Mr.

Merckx added that recycling quality is still maturing and requires ongoing testing and collaboration, with regulation expected to push the market to catch up.

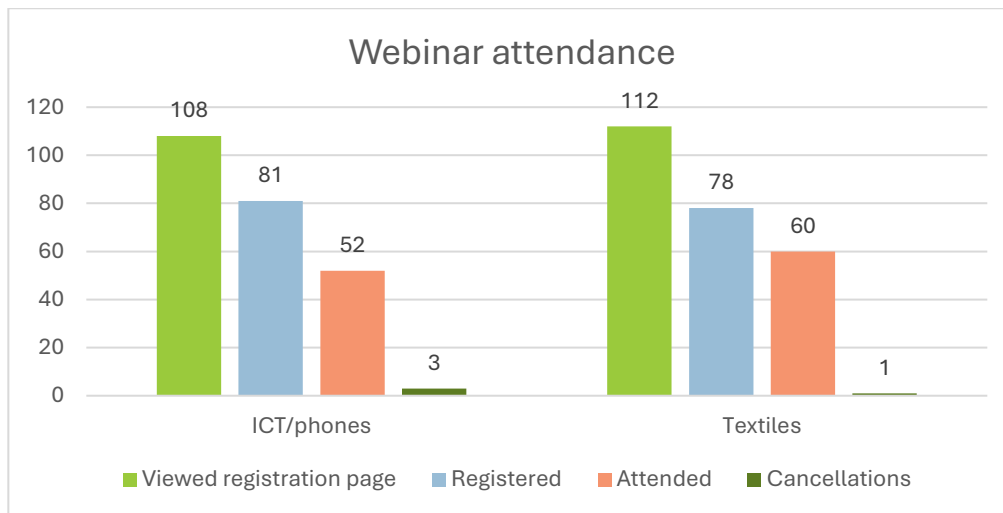
Similarly, a question arose about managing branding and logos on reused items, noting that there are concerns about municipal or official logos getting into the wrong hands. Ms. Vogel said that Groningen's tender required removable logos to avoid the need to shred garments, while Mr. Merckx endorsed this approach and added that removing non-removable branding is costly, labour-intensive, and shortens the practical lifespan of garments; instead, he advocated for removable-logo requirements to become a standard eco-design criterion, a move with which he has good experience.

Questions by Ms. Poppe and Mr. van der Veen concerned upstream design requirements and tender specifications in the Rennes case. Ms. Bonabeau could not confirm the city's full upstream sourcing strategy without consulting the project manager, but stated that the tender was deliberately drafted in simple and functional terms, without fixed quantity targets, in order to both reassure the social enterprise and allow for continuous improvement and future expansion to other textile sources, such as fire department and postal service jackets.

Ms. Carolina Vogel closed by emphasizing that transforming the textile industry requires sustained investment in R&D and argued that municipalities should view such investment as something that pays off over time. She urged public authorities not to be overly cautious about subsidizing higher-cost circular solutions, holding that the broader value (social, ecological, and economic) justifies the upfront investments.

## Promotion and attendance

Overall, the two webinars achieved roughly equal attendance. The ICT/phones webinar achieved 81 registrations, of which 52 actually attended; the textiles webinar achieved 78 registrations but 60 joined.



### Promotion

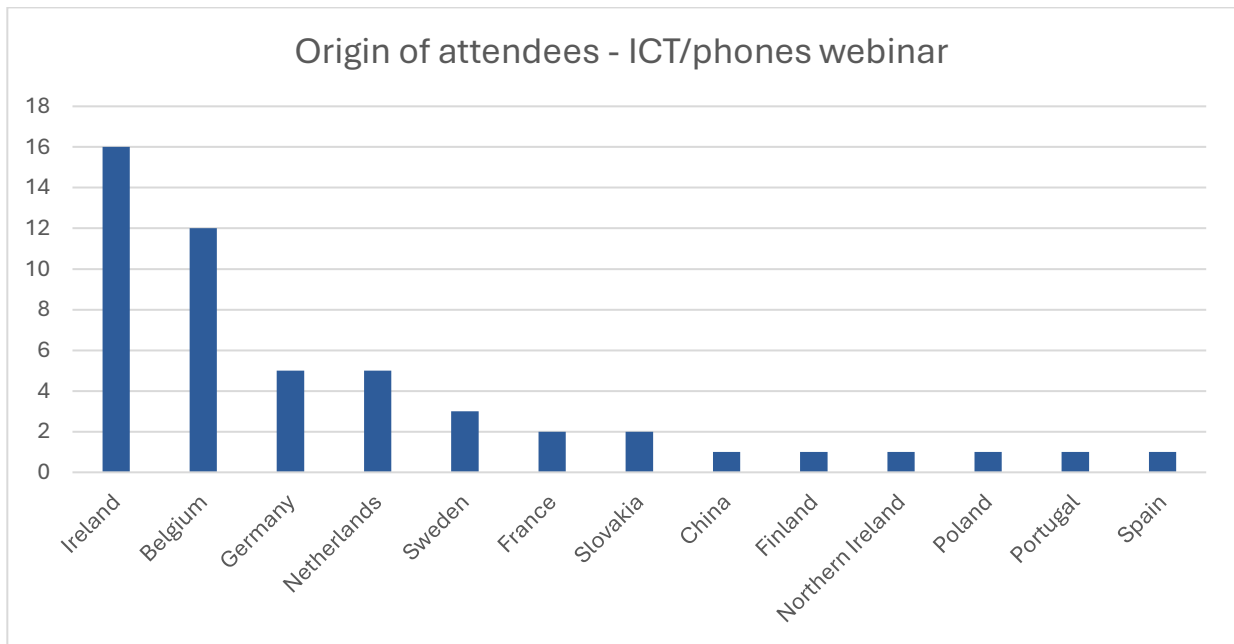
Both webinars were promoted for a period of about 4 weeks before they took place. The ICT/phones webinar was first promoted via the Circular Shift project newsletter and mailing list, LinkedIn page, and website, as well as by partners on their own websites and social media pages. It was also advertised on platforms including the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP), the Public Buyers Community, and the Circular Procurement Learning Network LinkedIn group. This process was repeated for the textiles webinar.

### Attendance

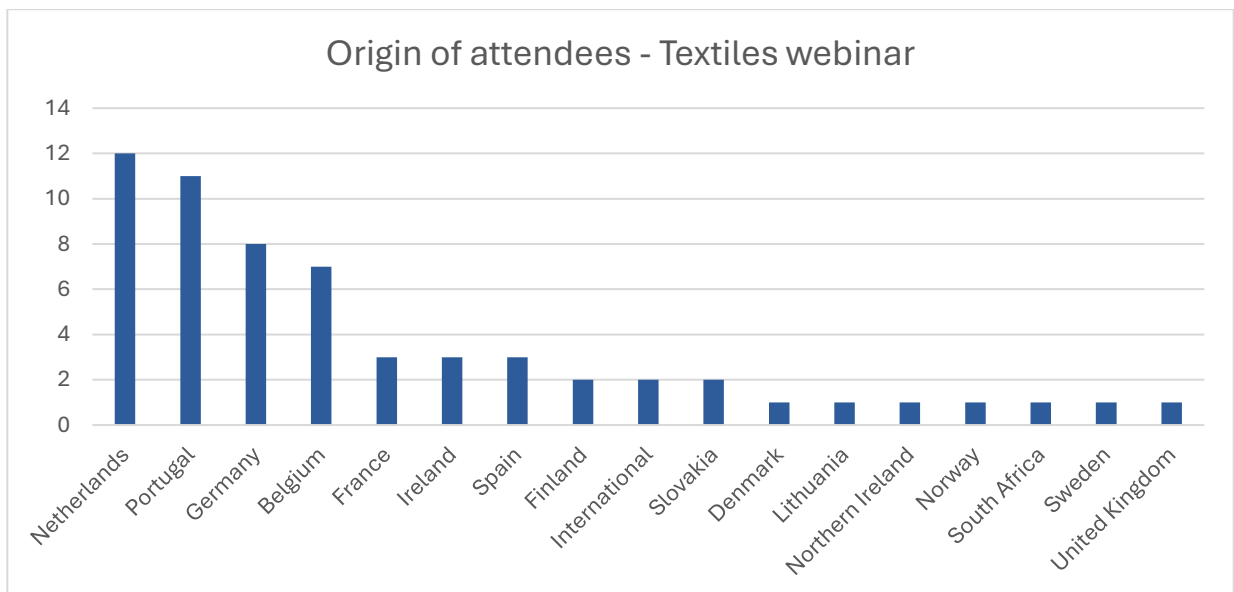
#### Origin of attendees

Of the 81 attendees during the ICT/phones webinar, a majority connected from North-West Europe countries, notably Ireland (16), Belgium (12), Germany and the Netherlands (5 each). Non-NWE countries represented were Sweden (3), Slovakia (2), and China, Finland, Northern Ireland, Poland, Portugal, and Spain (1 each). Non-attending registrations also came from Australia, Austria, Georgia, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway.

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Among the 78 attendees during the textiles webinar, North-West Europe was once again well represented: Netherlands (12), Germany (8), Belgium (7), France and Ireland (3 each). However, significant attendance also came from Portugal (11). Additional countries represented include Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Non-attending registrants also came from Togo and the United States.



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**Type of attendee**

The types of organisations attending both webinars were also roughly equal.

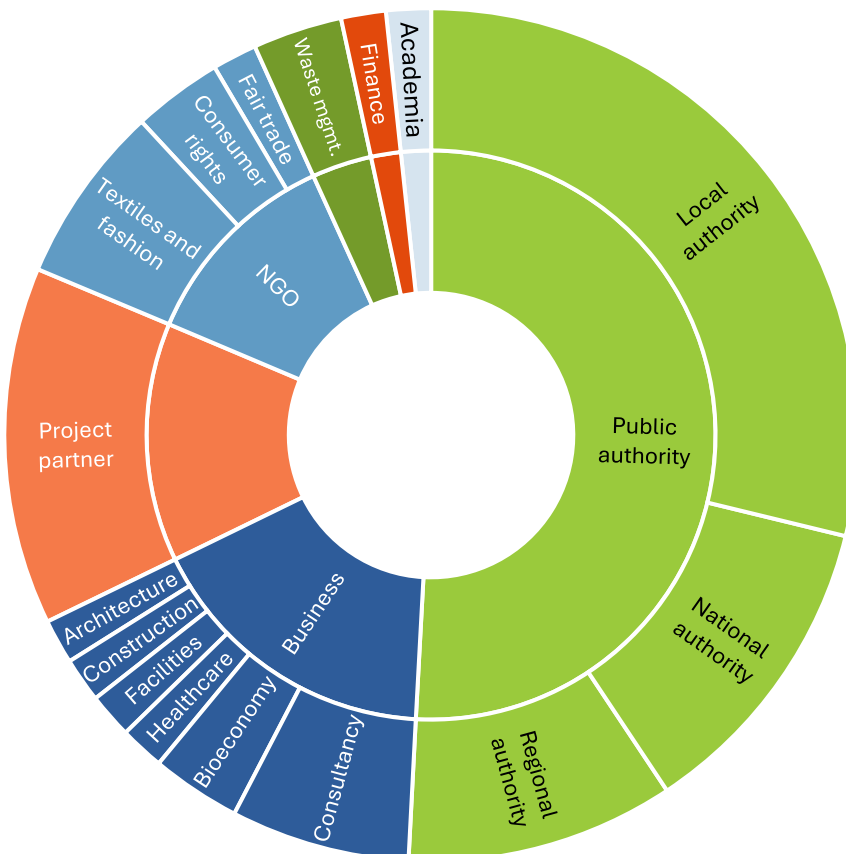
For the ICT/phones and textiles webinars, the largest share of participants represented public authorities (47%; 51%). In the former, national level authorities led the attendance while in the latter, local authorities were most prevalent.

Businesses made up the next biggest share in both events (24%; 17%), followed by project partners (22%; 14%).

ICT/phones webinar



Textiles webinar



The remaining share of participants came from academia and NGOs in both events, as well as the waste management and financial sectors during the webinar on textiles.

Among private enterprises, there was a good spread across different sectors, implying broad interest in the link between circular economy and procurement.

## **Dissemination**

Following the two webinars, the recordings of both were published online for public viewing. With the consent of all speakers, the slide decks were also published on the Circular Shift website for download. The recordings were disseminated via the project's LinkedIn page and partners encouraged to repeat this. Finally, the webinars and this report are scheduled to be disseminated in the second Circular Shift newsletter, due in June 2026.

### **ICT/phones webinar recording**

[Watch back our webinar on ICT and phones procurement value chain collaboration! | CIRCULAR SHIFT](#)

### **Textiles webinar recording**

[Watch back our webinar on textiles procurement value chain collaboration! | CIRCULAR SHIFT](#)