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CENTRES FOR URBAN RESOURCES,
REUSE AND REMANUFACTURE

Kavala Urban Resource Centre

Kavala / Greece

A free-access wood workshop and a repair community space for promotion of the circular economy

1. Objectives of the URC

The Kavala Urban Resource Centre encourages local communities to embrace sustainability by upcycling. It offers spaces for repairing and transforming objects, helping reduce waste and promote creativity, more specifically:

- Providing citizens with the chance to repair their objects,
- Aims to educate the community about the importance of repair and sustainability, while also offering workshops and opportunities to learn repair skills hands-on,
- Reducing bulky waste in the Municipality of Kavala
- Supporting the creation and implementation of circular economy initiatives
- Connecting to an online platform for the exchange of bulky items

2. Services provided by the URC



The services provided by the Kavala URC can be categorized into 2 groups based on the type of its premises:

1. A community-driven makerspace, a fully equipped woodworking studio where individuals can restore, refurbish, or craft furniture and various projects. Under the guidance of an experienced carpenter, locals can bring their items in and repair or breathe new life into them.
2. A community space for hosting master classes, seminars, exhibitions, and networking events. This room fosters collaboration, learning, and the exchange of ideas about CE practises.

The URC of the Municipality of Kavala is a pioneering initiative in the region, offering citizens the opportunity to adopt practices of reuse and waste reduction. Through interactive activities and educational events, the centre highlights the possibilities and benefits of the circular economy, providing an open and creative space for non-formal learning and community connection. The goal of the URC is to raise environmental awareness within the community and promote the creation of solutions that contribute to environmental protection and resource recycling. This process is seamlessly integrated with a dedicated web platform that matches local supply with demand, ensuring efficient resource circulation. The platform not only addresses immediate needs but also contributes to strengthening the local economy by keeping funds within the community.



3. Operational model

	Description
Ownership	The URC belongs to the Municipality of Kavala, and its management for sustainability purposes will be entrusted to a KoiSPE (Social Cooperative Enterprise).
Team	The Urban Resource Center (URC) operates as a collaborative initiative between the Municipality of Kavala and Social Cooperatives (ΚοινΣΕΠ). Currently, a carpenter is actively employed, responsible for processing and transforming incoming materials. Additionally, the centre's operations and coordination with the municipality's teams are overseen by the responsible officer from the Cleaning Department of the Municipality. More team members will be added as needed, depending on operational demands.
Location	<p><u>Strengths:</u> The URC is the first of its kind in the area, equipped with existing infrastructure and located near other municipal workshops that can collaborate with it. It also offers space for material storage, facilitating the management and storage of resources for reuse and recycling.; parking space for URC visitors.</p>   <p><u>Downsides:</u> The URC is located far from the city centre. The storage space is not protected from weather conditions. The space was previously used by other workshops, so significant work is required to adapt it for its new purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 m² community space & wood workshop • 3 toilets • Outdoor space (without weather protection)

Material flow	<p><i>Supply</i> Materials are sourced from donations by local residents through the web platform. Items such as furniture, construction materials, and bulky waste are collected via the Municipality's cleaning and bulky waste management services.</p> <p><i>Demand</i> -Repaired and refurbished furniture is either donated to individuals in need or sold at low prices to make them accessible to the broader community. -Upcycled materials and furniture are made available for sale or redistribution through the URC's web platform, connecting supply with local demand. -Workshops and educational programs also create demand for upcycled materials, with students and community members participating in circular economy practice</p> <p><i>Type of materials</i> -Bulky waste, including old furniture and decorative items. -Construction and demolition waste (CDW), such as reusable wood and metal parts. -Materials suitable for repair, upcycling, and repurpose into new products</p> <p><i>Logistics</i></p>
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4. Budget

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Implementation (until March 2025)	CURE+ funding (EUR)	Municipality's budget (EUR)	Other (EUR)
Refurbishment of the premises	-	-	5 000
Furnishing the community space	1 100	-	-
Setting up the wood workshop	-	10 000	-
Operation (from January 2025)	CURE+ funding (EUR)	Municipality's budget (EUR)	Other
Yearly budget	-	-	Future EU projects or Social Cooperative Enterprise



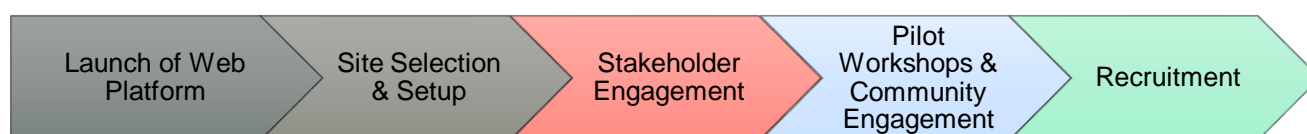
5. KPIs and impact assessment of the URC

The Kavala URC is a pilot project in Kavala, set to begin operations in January 2025. The KPIs are based on the experience of similar URCs and will be adjusted according to actual performance after the first year of operation. During its operation, the KPIs will focus on evaluating the project's outcomes rather than assessing its impact, as this is the first time such an initiative is being attempted in the wider region

KPI	Sources of information	Results
Visitors	Daily counting	150+ visitors
Items repaired	Daily counting	15+ items repaired
Educational events organized	Staff reports	6
Number of participants	Staff reports	80 participations at educational events
Number of partners attracted to collaborate with URC	Staff reports	3 partners attracted
Items donated to municipality for urban use	Staff reports	2

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6. Implementation



- The web platform was launched before the URC's operation, specifically in mid-2024. It enables citizens to donate or exchange bulky items while facilitating organized collection by the Municipality. By integrating with the URC, it enhances community participation in waste management and promotes a circular economy approach
- Identified a suitable location near the Municipality's other departments for efficient collaboration and storage
- Established partnerships within the Municipality, like Social Cooperative (Κοι.Σ.Π.Ε.)
- Organized co-creation sessions
- Hired a carpenter and other staff for repair and upcycling activities



7. Visitors' testimonies

"It was inspiring to collaborate with others, share ideas, and see them take shape. A project like this was definitely missing from our city, and I'm excited to see how it will grow and benefit the community." Participant, Co-creations November 2024

8. Ensuring continuity

Municipality of Kavala will ensure the continuity of the Kavala URC through: the sustaining and expansion of collaboration with the Social Cooperative Enterprise (KoiSPE), local organizations, and institutions will ensure the continued support of the Centre.

Strengthening the community through the continuous organization of relevant events and workshops related to CE and upcycling.

Collaboration and organization of educational programs with local universities (Democritus University of Thrace - DUTH) and educational institutions (Omhres).

9. Lessons learnt and conclusions

Key challenges, dos and don'ts from the first operational months

Topic	Learning points
Objectives of the URC	Public awareness and engagement require continuous effort. Encouraging citizens to actively participate in repair and upcycling initiatives is essential for the success of the URC.
Operational model	A strong partnership with the Municipality and the Social Cooperative Enterprise (KoiSPE) is crucial for ensuring long-term sustainability
Budget	Initial funding covered basic infrastructure and equipment, but additional financial resources are needed for long-term operations. The URC's sustainability depends on a mix of municipal support, grants, citizen participation and future collaborations with Social Cooperative Enterprises.
Staff	Having a dedicated carpenter significantly enhances the functionality of the URC. However, additional personnel (such as event coordinators and community engagement officers) would improve operations. Volunteers and collaborations with universities can help bridge staffing gaps.
Daily work	For now, we aim to establish a specific day/time each week when the URC will be open to the public, allowing citizens to repair their items. The next step is integrating the URC into the municipality's

Topic	Learning points
	bulky waste management services, enabling the centre to repair and repurpose collected materials.
Tracking KPIs and impact assessment	Currently, we are monitoring basic KPIs such as visitor numbers, repaired items, and event participation. In the future, additional parameters will be evaluated to better assess the impact and effectiveness of the URC's activities.

10. Contact details

<https://kavala.gov.gr/>

<https://bulkyobjects.kavala.gov.gr/>

