



**cityzen**  
for a sustainable european society

In the frame of the Cityzen project, all the partners from France, Hungary, Belgium, Italy and Latvia conducted some researches on responsible consumption in their country. These researches were done on the 7 main areas of responsible consumption: transport, food, energies, eco and solidarity tourism, clothes footwear, house and office goods and cosmetics. The aim of these researches was to see what was done in terms of responsible consumption, what are the good existing practices, the restrictions and problems.

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**Synthesis on the local researches**



We could summarize the restrictions to responsible consumption in Europe to :

- The lack of awareness campaigns promoting responsible consumption in all its aspects
- The high price of responsible consumption products
- The massive production of goods which are not “green” (plastic, cars, etc.)
- The intensive use of cars / non green energies
- The lack of public policies and investments in terms of responsible consumption
- Initiatives are quite sporadic



## Good Practices



### Hungary

The air contamination has diminished since a few years because fuelling stations can't sell fuel which contains lead anymore

### Belgium

Policy is to promote public transportation. Train and trams are mostly electric

### France

- At local level policies are promoting green energy transportation
- The government gives financial help to buy clean cars

### France, Hungary and Belgium

In France, Hungary and Belgium riding bicycles, especially in the big cities is quite common. A lot of structures promote bike as a mean of transport.

### Italy and France

In Italy and France a system of shared car use has been launched

## Restrictions - Problems



### France, Hungary, Belgium, Italy and Latvia

In France, Hungary, Belgium, Italy and Latvia the traffic is one of the main reasons for air contamination. Public transportation is not used very much.

### Italy

Public transportation services are insufficient. Use of plane is common

### Latvia

State donations are necessary for converting public transportation losses. Buses are more used then trains

### Italy and Latvia

In Italy and Latvia the bicycle lane is not that well developed and biking is not that popular.



## Good Practices



### Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, Latvia

In all the 5th countries the percentage of the organic farming is growing. There are government programs for supporting the organic and bio farming.

### Hungary

Production and distribution of food is well controlled and there is a national plan for the expansion of ecological farming.

### France and Belgium

Organic products are available in supermarkets and specialised shops. Many local initiatives in terms of supply, promotion of sustainable food consumption. Fair trade is well known in France and Belgium. The prices are still too high but the interest in buying fair trade products is growing.

### Italy

LIBERA network produces organic food from the lands confiscated to the mafia. In small villages, people usually buy organic food

### AMAP

AMAP is a French local initiative which allows consumers to buy fresh products directly from local farmers. It's a big success

## Restrictions - Problems



In all the countries, there is a lack of information and visibility about organic and fair trade food. The price of organic food and fair trade products is still too expensive.

### Italy

In big cities people prefer to buy food in industrial packages;

### Latvia

too much bureaucratic requirements for the production, transportation and sales; no biological production network in the country; too much requirements to legally sell self produced products.

### Belgium

Independent groceries in the city disappear under the pressure of super markets and discounts; ministries of agriculture do promote local products but sustainability is not a priority



The 5 countries depend on gas and oil import. The biggest part of the electricity is issue from nuclear power. As a whole, the electricity coming from renewable energies is increasing, but in the same time the demand keeps on increasing as well.

## Good Practices



In every countries except Latvia, there are campaigns on raising awareness in responsible energy consumption, but usually through NGOs

### France

Regional subsidies for renewable energies; New energy performance in new buildings

### Belgium

Green electricity is cheaper than normal electricity; transition towns: towns preparing for future with less fuel

### Italy

The production of renewable energy is increasing

## Restrictions - Problems



In all the countries, there is a lack of information and visibility about organic and fair trade food. The price of organic food and fair trade products is still too expensive.

### Latvia

Needs on raising awareness in responsible energy consumption: lack of Campaigns in responsible energy consumption; green electricity is more expensive than traditional. There is a lack of technology to develop green energies, even if there is a potential.

### Italy

Decreasing of the hydroelectric power plants in the Alps, since 1963. 60% of the renewable energies are produced in northern Italy.

### Belgium

Wind and water energy are not very developed. There are only very small initiatives in bio-fuel.



## Good Practices



### France

is one of the world's leaders in solidarity and rural tourism: big potential for nature-based tourism, lots of protected areas. Actors of fair tourism are slowly trying to cooperate between each other.

### Hungary and Italy

Rural tourism is well developed in Hungary and Italy as well

### Hungary

Many national initiatives in terms of rural / green tourism

### Belgium

Belgium is promoting the solidarity and eco tourism

## Restrictions - Problems



In all the countries, there is a lack of information and visibility about organic and fair trade food. The price of organic food and fair trade products is still too expensive.

### Italy

Mass tourism has destroyed part of the landscapes and unbalanced the natural system. There is a lack of control on the services offered to tourists.

### France

Ecotourism is still very young in France and the labels are rare. Most of them come from private initiatives.



## Good Practices



### France

- Since 2002 it is compulsory for every French city to organise a selective sorting.
  - Waste: 20% is recycled, 40% is going to waste land, 40% is incinerated
    - In 2008 there was a very good turnover for the recycling sector
- The example of Saint Denis municipality: Every office has a special bin since 2003, allowing daily collection of paper and other recyclable waste and it is compulsory to use paper containing at least 50% recycled fibers

### Hungary

- 15% of the Hungarians are recycling and salvage is possible since 2000
- Raising of awareness about selective sorting: "Bring it back" program, "Green bridge" program

### Belgium

- there are some initiative to recycle and re-use office materials (paper, folders) ([www.kudzu.be](http://www.kudzu.be)), furniture ([www.solid-r.be/indexnl.html](http://www.solid-r.be/indexnl.html), [www.zilok.com](http://www.zilok.com))
- 'Kringloopwinkels' is a network of recycling shops and stores where everyone can drop of redundant products that are still usable

### Italy

- Municipality of Castelbuono: Donkeys are used as garbage tracks and the workers are from disadvantaged background
- Cooperative of iron and metal collectors: People can collect old metals in the rubbish / industries to gain money
  - Apas cooperative in Palermo: volunteers going from door to door to pick up the collected rubbish
  - Zero waste strategy-raising awareness in school about waste management

### Latvia

- Office materials are usually recycled
- Local municipalities uses also recycled paper in its work

## Restrictions - Problems



### Hungary

- Youth are not sensitized to recycling
- People with less incomes are less motivated by selective sorting

### Italy

- Is one of the highest consumption of plastic bottles/bags worldwide: 25% of the consumption of plastic bags in all Europe
  - Sicily has the highest production of water bottles in all Italy

### Latvia

it is not possible to officially sell used furniture, household machinery



## Good Practices



### France

- Increase in the sales of organic cosmetics

### Hungary

Natural cosmetics credited by BDIH are available in Hungary but there are Hungarian products as well. Sells are increasing but there are not exact data about the share and the demand.

### Latvia

Local cosmetics production factory that has launched its trade mark: cosmetic series "Madora".