



EVENT REPORT

3rd Edition **REPperFestival**

24 May 2026
Bologna, Italy



REPper

Interreg
Euro-MED



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the European Union

Introduction

Rethinking Repair as a Catalyst for Change

The Repair Festival, the final event of the REPper project, was held on Sunday, May 24, at DumBO – Officina in Bologna. It redefined repair as a transformative force, reshaping how we produce, consume, and live in our communities. For a full day, the space became a dynamic open laboratory of ideas and best practices, dedicated to repair and the circular economy.

Organized by the Metropolitan City of Bologna as part of the European REPper project—co-funded by the Interreg Euro-MED program and the European Union—the event brought together 8 partners from 8 Mediterranean countries, with Bologna serving as the lead partner. Through morning talks and afternoon workshops, participants explored the project's achievements and addressed a critical question: How can we make repair accessible and widespread?

The festival highlighted repair as more than a technical act, it is a cultural shift. By reducing waste, extending product lifespans, supporting local economies, and fostering connections between people, places, and skills, repair engages institutions, businesses, schools, professionals, and citizens alike.

A central focus was the REPper project's repair hubs, which tested adaptable models to strengthen circular economies across Mediterranean territories. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, five innovative models were presented:

- Digital hubs: Advocating for the right to repair and consumer information.
- Physical hubs: Offering workshops and practical demonstrations.
- Hybrid hubs: Combining in-person and online tools.
- Educational hubs: Targeting schools and universities.
- Circular hubs: Networking repair with recycling.

From artisans to policymakers, the festival showcased how repair is evolving into a holistic vision of sustainability: one where environmental and socio-economic values intertwine, and know-how regains its status as a strategic resource. Today, repairing isn't just about fixing objects; it's about building a future grounded in awareness and resilience.

Three Years of REPper: Achievements and Call to Action

Over three years, REPper transformed ideas into tangible impact, acting on both policy and grassroots levels:

- Built repair hubs: Adapted models (digital platforms, physical repair cafés, educational workshops) to local legal, cultural, and social contexts, fostering locally rooted circularity.
- Trained 2,095+ people: Through trainer programs and educational materials for students, teachers, and professionals, proving education drives change.
- Shifted mindsets: Strengthened consumer confidence in repair via nudge strategies, transnational behavioral analyses, and impact campaigns, showing that repairing means rethinking how we consume, produce, and live.

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Hosting Partner



European Partners

The Festival was co-organised within the REPper project, bringing together its European partners, who contributed to the roundtable, and strengthened transnational cooperation.



UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO



Programme

Day 1 — Perspectives, Innovation, and Public Engagement (May 24, 2026)

Panel: "REPper Best Practices in the Field"

Representatives from multiple European countries showcased localized models of repair hubs, training, and community engagement:

- **Luca Lambertini** (CIOFS ER/FP, Italy)

Educational repair hubs in Bologna trained adults in micromobility, electronics, and textiles, with spillover effects into schools.

- **Marco La Guardia** (R.U.S.K.O., Italy)

Bologna's repair cafés demonstrate how hands-on learning fosters inclusion, curiosity, and product longevity.

- **Antonio Beraldi** (Leila la rete degli oggetti, Italy)

An object library with 600+ shared items turned sharing into a right-to-repair experience.

- **Rachil Salonikidou** (Greece)

School workshops for 250+ children proved that small repairs can drive major cultural shifts.

- **Marcela Horvat & Marinka Vovk** (Slovenia)

From reuse festivals to upcycling micro-housing, Slovenian models combine sustainability and social inclusion.



Roundtable: "The Future of the Repair Economy"

A forward-looking discussion explored how repair can reduce waste, create economic opportunities, and shape public policy:

- **Evgenia Karapatsiou** (DIADYMA SA, Greece)
Waste reduction starts with simple, affordable repair; municipality-school collaboration is key.
- **Serena Ceccarelli** (Gruppo Hera, Italy)
In Emilia-Romagna, services covering 200+ municipalities boost awareness and access to repair.
- **Eugenio Tedeschi** (DISMECO, Italy)
E-waste recycling can supply spare parts for other appliances, extending their lifespan.
- **Isabella Cioccolini** (Salvaiciclisti Bologna, Italy)
Affordable bike repair promotes mobility and independence.
- **Luisa Crisigiovanni** (Euroconsumers)
Legal frameworks (right to repair, incentives) and consumer awareness are critical.
- **Rachel Teh Chuann Yien** (Seberang Perai Municipal Council, Malaysia)
Amid rising waste, a repair culture creates jobs and opportunities.
- **Micaela Utili** (Confartigianato Bologna, Italy)
Accessible repair services, spare parts, and clear documentation are vital for circular economy growth.

Repair Labs and Art & Community Events

Open to the public, the festival featured:

- Hands-on "Repair Lab" workshops (textile repair, bike maintenance, appliance repair).
- "Art & Community" events (live painting, musical performances, screen-printing demos) to animate the festival atmosphere.





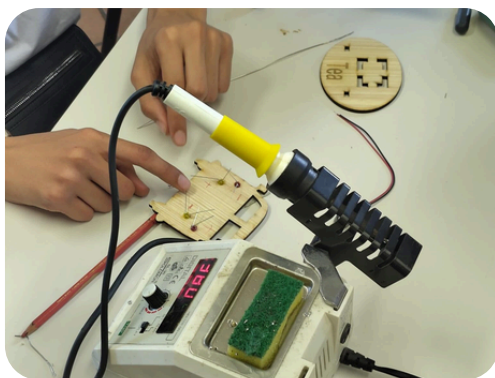
Day 2 — Consortium Meeting at CIOFS-FP (May 25)

The REPPER consortium visited CIOFS-FP (Centro Italiano Opere Femminili Salesiane – Formazione Professionale), a historic Salesian vocational training center in Bologna. For over 50 years, it has embodied Don Bosco's educational vision, combating school dropout and promoting social inclusion.

Highlights:

- A peer-led repair workshop where CIOFS-FP students guided consortium members through:
 - Building a wooden model.
 - Assembling a miniature electrical system.
- Immersive experience to understand tools and techniques for training the next generation of repair professionals.

CIOFS-FP offers a diploma in industrial machine maintenance, combining advanced technical skills (PLCs, CAD, electronics) with a strong social mission. The visit underscored education as a driver of change—a core pillar of REPPER.





Spotlights

REPper's Repair Factories: A Hub for Skills and Sustainability

The REPper project created "repair factories" hands-on spaces for learning repair techniques and developing skills for green jobs and circular economy services. These hubs proved repair's potential to drive economic and environmental change.

The results speak for themselves:

- 2,095+ participants across nine territories (students, teachers, professionals, and more).
- 800+ students engaged in workshops.
- 94% of students now see repair as a viable alternative to replacement.

Engaging youth is key: by fostering skills and awareness, repair shifts from a niche practice to a foundation for sustainable production and consumption.

Basic repair training (from household fixes to bike repairs) revealed a high demand for practical skills, sparking local collaboration and inclusive social connections.

Focus: Small Repairs, Big Changes

In Thessaloniki, 250+ children at Asvestochori Primary Schools joined REPper's Greek Hub, discovering how repair and sustainability can be fun, meaningful, and transformative.

[Watch the video](#)



Repair Hubs – Five Adaptable Models

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Policy and Corporate Responsibility

The festival also underscored the need for stronger public support for the repair sector through:

- Dedicated policies
- Economic incentives
- Green public procurement
- Regulatory frameworks, such as the European Right to Repair Directive, which aims to make repairs simpler, more affordable, and more accessible than replacements.

To drive systemic change, corporate responsibility must evolve—repair should be a core element of production models, not an afterthought. This means promoting accessible, circular economy-aligned solutions that prioritize sustainability.