

Visits in Wallonia – 17-04

19 participants

Mundo LLN

Circular transition in the construction and real estate sector: visit of a recently constructed building with mainly second-hand materials.

Mundo LLN is an office complex addressed to NGOs and social enterprises. It is constructed with mainly second-hand materials; the main structure of the building is a used steel structure. The construction is also a passive building, which means that it requires little energy to space heating and cooling. The architect in charge of the project described the main challenges of such an initiative, for example finding appropriate reused materials that could fit the architect's idea and the needs of the construction, but also the opportunities of such a project. In fact, the project proved that a more circular and local material sourcing can have, besides environmental and social benefits, also economic advantages, especially in unstable periods for markets (a reference was made to the recent unstable time for the construction sector where materials' prices increased highly and as well as delivery times). At this time, local sourcing was economically more interesting. In conclusion, such a building represents a circular solution to face social crises, to be more resilient and respect our environment.

COMPOSIL

Circular transition in the carpet sector: exploring new business models for carpets' producers.

Composil is an enterprise specialized in the cleaning, refurbishing, and recycling of carpets. The main service offered by the enterprise was originally the cleaning of carpets. In the last few years, the company developed a different approach to diversify its offer and started a new business model based on the reuse of carpets through a total reconditioning of the product and reintroduction into the market at a reduced price. Depending on each client's contract, the carpets are collected by the company at the end of it and refurbished and cleaned to have a new life. The company also developed an innovative recycling program thanks to a collaboration with an Italian company that transforms the end-of-life carpets into reusable raw materials to produce new carpets. During the visit, a presentation was given concerning this innovative and circular approach, exposing the advantages in terms of traceability of the product, relationship with the clients and accessibility to new markets. Afterwards, a demonstration of the cleaning process was given to show the company's routine in the carpet's cleaning. This cleaning process uses very little water, allowing the company to have an even lower environmental impact. In conclusion, adopting new and innovative business model represents an opportunity for enterprises to have access to new markets, explore new approaches that benefit environment along with economic and social advantages.