



# Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

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## ATLANTIC SOCIAL LAB STUDY VISIT REPORT - STUDY VISITS HELD IN RENNES

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The project Atlantic Social Lab is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INTERREG Atlantic Area Cooperation Program (EAPA\_246 / 2016)



<b>A. GENERAL INFORMATION</b>			
<b>Date</b>	Rennes, 3rd of July 2018	<b>Location:</b>	Rennes
<b>Name</b>	Ressources T		
<b>Legal Status</b>	Social Enterprise		
<b>Contact Details</b>	Responsible: Ludovic Blot Email: ludovic.blot@envie.org Phone no.: +33 02 99 38 62 96 - +33 06 74 48 61 76 Website: <a href="http://www.ressources-t.org">http://www.ressources-t.org</a>		

<b>B. SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>Objectives</b> <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	<p>Ressources T has two essential objectives at its core. Firstly, it is an enterprise specialised in the reuse of goods. Second, it intends to support its employees in the process of integration in the labour market through the renovation, restoration and sale of goods (mostly household appliances). Ressources T<sup>1</sup> has a Social Enterprise structure, based on the premise of the Social and Solidarity Economy.</p>
<b>Methodology</b> <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	<p>The operation mode of this project stimulates the participation of unemployed people in the daily tasks of the enterprise. The first premise of the company is embedded in an active participation of the unemployed in the Rennes area in the collection, restoration, reuse and sale of electro-domestic appliances. There is, therefore, a concern on the part of the company in the training of one "art" concerning restoration and reuse of domestic appliances. In addition to the training and help in the search for jobs of the unemployed in Rennes, this social enterprise, allows from its work of collection and restoration of electrical appliances that the devices subsequently put on sale, are acquired by the population at a substantially lower cost than the market.</p> <p>In order to better understand the structure and methodology of the organisation, it should be explained that it is divided into 4 smaller units, all of them linked to the green and circular economy sector, aiming at the training and formation of long-term unemployed people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Envie 35 - Renewal of appliances, arrangements and warranty of the same;</li> <li>• Envie 2E Recyclage Bretagne<sup>2</sup> - Collection and treatment of WEEE (electrical and electronic waste);</li> <li>• Envie Transport Bretagne - Transport and logistics</li> <li>• Envie Autonomie 35 - The solidarity offers for autonomy</li> </ul> <p>Thus, Ressources T aims to collect and recycle electronic equipment so that it can be offered for sale at an affordable price. To obtain this result, the enterprise methodology uses labour force of unemployed individuals, giving them training in the various areas of the companies, such as electronics, restoration, heavy machinery handling, licence for transport vehicles and others and sales. Currently, the social enterprise has 130 employees, 85 of whom are individuals who need some form of social assistance (long-term</p>

<sup>1</sup> Photograph 1, shows Resource T collection facilities

<sup>2</sup> Photograph 2, the exterior of the Ressource T warehouses, where the appliances remain after collection and before triage.

	unemployment, migrants, among others).
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<b>C. MAIN FINDINGS</b>	
<p><b>Social Needs</b> <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i></p>	<p>With this project, Ressources T, intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration needs of individuals with social needs in the labour market (long-term unemployment, migrants, among others);</li> <li>• Inclusion and socialisation of individuals with social needs in the labour market (long-term unemployment, migrants, among others);</li> <li>• Training, qualification and formation needs of individuals with social needs in the labour market (long-term unemployment, migrants, among others);</li> <li>• The need that individuals with social needs have to obtain soft and hard skills for the future;</li> <li>• Needs to enhance, spread and actively participate in a green and circular economy;</li> <li>• Needs to provide the neediest people with goods (mainly household appliances) at an affordable price;</li> <li>• Population education needs for recycling and reuse.</li> </ul> <p>It is observable that the main social needs that this project – Ressources T - wants to achieve are the inclusion, socialisation and integration of individuals with social needs (long-term unemployment, migrants, among others) in the society and in the labour market. To achieve this goal, the social enterprise, encourages these individuals to participate in the day-to-day business and learn one “art”. In addition, the organisation helps the population of the region to have access to electrical appliances at affordable prices, in sort, this Social Enterprise is a true case and a good example of what must be a green and circular economy.</p>
<p><b>Social Innovative Practices</b> <i>(identify the main social innovative practices developed and the extent to which the work developed responds to those needs)</i></p>	<p>The practice of social innovation that will be highlighted in this project is the Social Enterprise – Ressources T, as a whole. The whole Ressources T project is embedded and rooted in a web of socialisation, inclusion, integration, training and formation of individuals with social needs (long-term unemployment, migrants, among others). There are several activities that promote learning, qualification, socialisation and inclusion of these individuals.</p> <p>On the one hand, there is the collection of used and/or damaged appliances, thus promoting the recycling and interaction of individuals (Ressources T employees) with the population. Subsequently, the transportation of goods, teach individuals skills concerning the transportation of goods. Regarding the restoration of electro-domestic appliances, individuals are actively trained, while helping the environment and providing to the appliance a new life<sup>3</sup>. These appliances will be sold at a more affordable price in the Social Enterprise store<sup>4</sup>. Finally, there is the question concerning the selling to the public, where individuals can learn commercial, selling and management techniques.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Photographic 3, appliances after triage

<sup>4</sup> Photograph 4, organisation store, where repaired appliances are sold to the public at a more affordable price with a 2-year warranty.

	It also should be mentioned, that Ressource T, in one of its “spin off companies”, - Envie autonomie - works with long-time unemployed people, working with disabled people. This practice becomes very innovative at the social level, not only because there is continuous work with the disabled population, but also because they deal directly with the inclusion of these individuals, getting them to work in different social enterprises.
<b>Collaboration and Networks</b> ( <i>identify the main connections of the organisation</i> )	Its collaborative network has as agents, Local and National Government, Other Social Enterprises in the Region, Local Community, Population of Rennes, Recycling Companies.

<b>D. MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO SUCCESS</b>	
<b>Challenges and Barriers</b> ( <i>identify the main problems that the organisation faces: financial resources, human resources, networks, innovative environment...</i> )	The biggest challenges this organisation faces, are the number of unemployed and those in need of help to re-enter the labour market and the society is greater than the responsiveness that Ressources T can provide. In addition to this "weakness", there is still the issue concerning the "number of appliances", that is, sometimes the number of appliances is higher than the "recreation" capacity that Ressources T has. There are also issues such as the problems of re-integration in the labour market of some employees, as well as the financial capacity that is not always enough to meet all the demands, nor the expansion that the business requires.

<b>E. CONCLUSIONS</b>	
<b>Key Concluding Lines</b>	In conclusion, the Social Enterprise – Ressources T and their projects intend to "give" a better quality and perspective of life for individuals with social needs (long-term unemployment, migrants, among others), the key ingredient is their integration, inclusion, socialisation, training and qualification in the green and circular economy issues. The organisation work with the community, organisations, enterprises, and groups of people to explore new and improved ways to help the environment, giving a new "opportunity" and "life" to used household appliances, as well as helping the population to have access to this type of goods at a more affordable price. While helping the environment, it helps individuals suffering from long-term unemployment to have a new opportunity on life.
<b>Other information considered relevant</b>	Nothing relevant to add.

## Study Visit Photos



*Figure 1 - Ressources T Collection Facilities*



*Figure 2 - The exterior of the Ressources T warehouses, where the appliances remain after collection and before triage.*



*Figure 3 - Appliances after triage*



*Figure 4 - Organisation Reuse Store*

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**Review:** Hugo Pinto and Atlantic Social Lab Partners