



— Recycle —



Loop project - National research  
**INTERVIEWS:** Entry # 48



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Planters made with aluminum cans  
photo by Bernard Hermant on unsplash  
<https://unsplash.com/photos/ddPETMvdk8>

### A short interview

about recycling with a person with knowledge in the field that focuses on what you should do personally considering recycling, how you can professionally contribute to a better circularity and future projects concerning recycling and its economic activity.

### WHAT recycling activities do you undertake on a regular basis?

The first thing that comes to mind is what we do in our office. Since I work in a firm, my co-workers and I use the printer in the office a lot, and I mean a lot. We have an unwritten rule that we print on both sides of the paper sheet whenever possible.

Of course, no one had any objections since doing this doesn't take that much effort, not to mention it isn't difficult to do. Despite it being practically effortless, that is how we cut down our paper waste production by nearly half in recent years. On top of that, we do our research on sustainable and environmentally friendly manufacturers to buy our resources from. We also try to buy in bulk whenever possible to reduce the necessary packaging. That way our purchase, because of the packaging and its contents, has less of an impact on the environment.



Cardboard recycling  
photo by Michael Jin on unsplash  
[https://unsplash.com/photos/ET6\\_fDwZj2U](https://unsplash.com/photos/ET6_fDwZj2U)

An example of this is the paper we buy made from recycled materials, and there is even barely any difference from paper made from brand new materials. In addition, we go through plenty of electronic devices each year. It's needless to say we get as much usage out of them as possible before deciding to move on to a new device. What I meant by that is we use them until they stop working altogether. Furthermore, new models of a particular device in the market don't have that big of an impact on our decision to get rid of the older one we have. And when we do decide to get rid of an older device, we always look into the correct way of recycling and make sure we do it so.

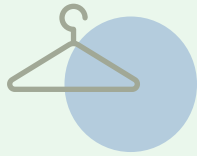


In our home, we use reusable and washable bags instead of plastic ones. We got a few cloth bags from the local farmer's market and we use them almost every day. I realized how unreasonably we were spending by buying around a dozen plastic bags for groceries every week. That means we used to buy half a thousand bags each year! We didn't even realize how much our usage of plastic bags was impacting the environment, therefore I am overjoyed we made that change.

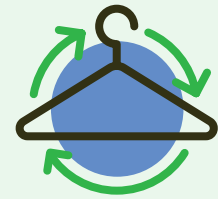


Another thing we do on a regular basis is go through our old things and separate a portion that we then donate. As they say, "One man's trash is another man's treasure", I firmly believe in that.

Also, I find it a lot easier to part with old clothing items when I know they are going to someone who needs them, rather than a landfill.



We don't donate our old things just to second-hand shops and charities though, we donate some to animal shelters as well, for example, blankets and towels.



They could always use more of those. We're always looking into even more ways of recycling and wasting fewer precious resources nature provides, so hopefully, this list will only expand in the future.



## HOW DID YOU INTEGRATE

### knowledge or technological processes to encourage a better circularity of your work?

Well, as we all know the goal is to make all of the products we use completely circular, and we are getting there step by step by using modern technology, but as I do not work in product development my contribution to a better circularity is not as easy to understand.

To explain it in the simplest way we take part in different projects that help improve circularity. A project we recently finished was one funded by the EU and the topic was strengthening the competitiveness of companies by investing in the digital and green transition.

As the market is currently facing many obstacles due to the coronavirus pandemic, the project was supposed to help them overcome them and help them do it in a way that is beneficial to the environment.



Waste photo by Paul Schellekens on unsplash, <https://unsplash.com/photos/c-R885Oc7k0>

The project focused on decreasing the negative effects on the environment and encouraging better use of resources in production as well as a transition into a circular economy. The investments themselves were appointed to new business units, expanding the capacities of the existing business units, diversifying business unit production, and making a fundamental change in the overall production process of the existing business units.



Recycling symbol pixabay license, [https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2014/03/24/13/42/recycling-294079\\_1280.png](https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2014/03/24/13/42/recycling-294079_1280.png)

One other project we worked on recently, which was also funded by the EU, was concerning increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in manufacturing industries. It consisted of supporting the implementation of energy efficiency measures and / or measures for the use of renewable energy sources that will lead to a reduction in the consumption of delivered energy of at least 20% in production facilities in relation to the reference delivered energy, that is in relation to the consumption of delivered energy before the implementation of measures.

In addition to energy efficiency measures and / or installation of equipment for the use of renewable energy sources in production facilities, the project also included energy renovation measures for buildings accompanying the production facility, which are exclusively related to production processes for industrial and / or production-economic purposes.



Forest, <https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1453791052107-5c843da62d97?ixid=MnwzMjA3fDB8MHxwaG90by1wYWdlfiHx8fGVufDB8f-Hx8&ixlib=rb-1.2.1&auto=format&fit=crop&w=2940&q=80>

These investments were awarded to micro, small, medium, and large private enterprises.

This project, which was truly about achieving energy savings by increasing the efficiency of energy use in manufacturing industries, enabling equal quantities of products by using a smaller amount of delivered energy, and reducing the share of conventional (fossil) fuels in total energy consumption, just as the one mentioned before, was a step in the right direction in bettering circularity.

In conclusion, there are a lot of ways to contribute to a better circularity and it is something we need to work on in this country and make sure it drastically improves in the next few years.





## WHAT INNOVATIVE FUTURE

### projects or objectives does it arise in relation to recycling and the potential that this has in its economic activity?

Recycling is ubiquitous today, and when it comes to projects encouraged by recycling, we already know in Zagreb that waste disposal is a big problem because it disturbs the natural balance (especially illegal disposal) and disturbs the overall economically acceptable image of the city.



That is why a home composting project based on compost has been launched in the city since 2018, and such a project is the oldest and most natural way of recycling; It is considered that in this way the disposal of waste in landfills can be reduced by 30% and fertilizer can be obtained for a better soil structure in agriculture, and the plan is to obtain useful raw materials and energy production.

In the same way in Istria (in Pula) after the adoption of the Waste Management Plan of the Republic of Croatia 2017 - 2022, the conditions for the implementation of the project "Kaštijun", a waste disposal service that was launched precisely because of waste disposal problems.

Croatia does not process about 80% of the total waste, and in this way the problem of disposing of that part of the waste that was generated by recycling and which is no longer usable has been solved. This program includes 6 locations that allow rational transportation of waste without unnecessary illegal disposal.

The project “Waste is not garbage - sort it into real bins and bags” was also launched, which advocates raising the awareness of all age groups for the decomposition and separation of usable parts of waste.

The project starts in the youngest age groups where creative workshops try to explain the concept of recycling to children, and everything continues to schoolchildren and students who try to explain the importance of recycling through presentations and will try to encourage young people to invest in cleanliness and sustainability.



Compost heap in a garden photo by Edward Howell on unsplash <https://unsplash.com/photos/v7G32kVgM84>

Of course, more such projects are planned, but first we need to find adequate disposal places where people will not mind the smell and the like, while the recycled part regains its place in use (in new or old form).



Overflowing garbage can photo by the blowup on unsplash, <https://unsplash.com/photos/t06aN6vewaQ>

The projects try to ensure the full utilization of the material with the least possible damage to the environment and the possible gain of the useful, without disturbing the economic picture of the economy.

Production, demand (trade) and consumption are growing every day, and the main problem is that it is not recycled enough, so we have abnormal amounts of waste, so projects are trying to improve the economic picture of cities and the economy as a whole.

# RECYCLE

# QUESTIONNAIRE

## 1. What is the so-called “circular economy”?

A	B	C
22%	6%	2%

## 2. Do you believe that a more sustainable economic system can be equally productive than the current one?

A	B	C
10%	18%	2%

## 3. Which of these consumer choices have you decided to implement in the last 10 years to protect the environment?

A	B	C
15%	7%	8%

## 4. How will the so-called “circular economy” affect the job market?

A	B	C
0%	23%	7%

## 5. In your work, how many strategic choices related to sustainability have been made in the last 10 years?

A	B	C
5%	20%	5%



**6. Which of these 4 “Rs” is more important to ensure a better future for humanity?**

A	B	C	D
9%	7%	13%	1%

**7. Which of these 4 “Rs” is most present in your family’s daily life?**

A	B	C	D
0%	11%	17%	2%

**8. In your opinion, what link is there between technology and the “circular economy”?**

A	B	C
23%	6%	1%

**9. Do you think we will be able to change the way we consume so as not to affect the environment and its limited resources?**

A	B	C
9%	16%	5%

**10. Are you familiar with the UN 2030 Agenda or have you ever heard of SDGs?**

A	B	C
18%	10%	2%

## QUESTIONNAIRE



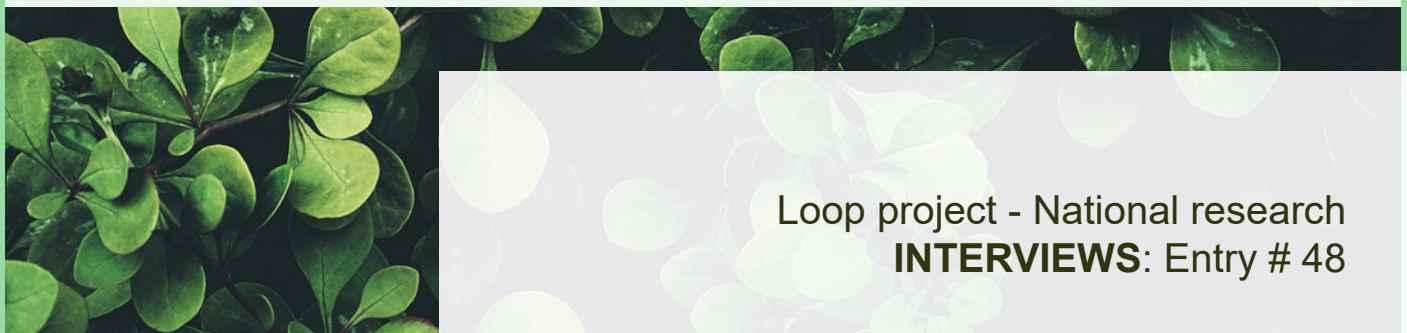
# QUESTIONNAIRE

**11. Do you think that the economy in the past was more sustainable than it is today?**

A	B	C
20%	2%	8%

**12. Which of these 3 statements do you consider the most true and important?**

A	B	C
6%	16%	8%



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