



— Reuse —

**RE
USE**

Loop project - National research
INTERVIEWS: Entry # 37



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BY:

Tara Lozar
Dora Janja Petrić
Lana Milošević

WORKING IN A CSO

active in the area of climate change,
energy and environmental protection



Authorized by Tara Lozar,
reuse of flower pots-Owner

Biologist

who during their professional career has been working in private sector, research institutions and international organisation. Their main area of expertise is environmental protection, bioenergy and climate change.

HOW did you discover the opportunities related to reuse?

“I am spending much time on thinking how to improve conditions and to reduce my own waste. I have learned about that mostly through my work and education. I have worked on many projects that included knowledge of biochemistry, climate changes, circular economy, bioenergy etc. It is important to participate in those projects because they can only help you benefit and learn new skills and broaden your horizons.

Furthermore, there are experienced people who are always there to help you achieve your goals, guide you or correct your mistakes and show you how to improve your work like some lifehacks. I am informed through the media too.



Clean park with visible Croatian
and European Union co-operating
symbols-Owner: Lana Milošević



Circular economy awareness in shops-
Owner: Dora Janja Petrić

And through different groups (such as NGOs). These groups are promoting reuse of different products (repairing old bicycles, reuse of old furniture, clothes, containers etc.) with the objective to reduce further consumption and reduce the amount of waste going to the landfills.

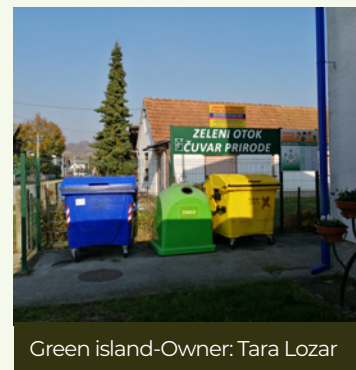
Besides that, I had read numerous online articles about circular economy and the use of it which helped me a lot.

I have been studying the work of some multinational companies dominant in the last decade as well and have seen if and how they provide strategies in circular economy. I have to admit, I did not pay attention to reuse at early ages of my education until I was informed in previous said ways.

I was familiar with recycling, but recycling is just one component of a complex process. I remember when my mother used to save and collect some things and I did not understand it at first but now I see that was a brilliant way to save money and to create new purposes of items.

My professors and colleagues from university also helped me form my opinion about reuse and other ways of reducing waste. Back in my student days, I had to figure out some ways to save money and I had to be very creative.

As everything in life, I learned a lot from my own life experiences and examples that pointed out that the amount of waste is too big and that we need solutions. Now.”



Green island-Owner: Tara Lozar





WHAT DO YOU REUSE AND HOW:

can you give us some examples of reuse in your economic activity?

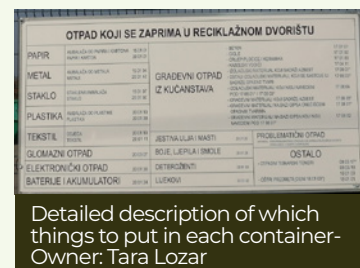
“The company I work in regularly donates old computers, monitors, keyboards etc. because we are aware that even though those things are not on the required level for our work, they are still usable for other institutions, households, nursing homes...Those institutions are often unable to afford IT equipment. Therefore, we are helping them and the environment. That way the equipment we do not use is reused.

Furthermore, me and my colleagues were educated about fixing some technical problems on our equipment. Of course, there are a lot of qualified people in my company whose job is to repair broken parts by replacing just problematic parts instead of the whole thing. It is a fact that broken or unfixable equipment exists, but we tend to lower that number by educating people as I had said. However, not all broken parts are thrown away, some people in my company use them to make art.



I have seen really breathtaking art made of wires and old keyboards. Some people take broken parts to their homes and show them to their children to teach them the basics. When we have a laptop or a PC that is out of function, we collect the pieces that are still working, and our IT experts make a new laptop or PC out of them.

I am proud of myself when I know that someone is working from an equipment that is made of parts that I brought to those experts. Even though it is not a reuse example, we pay attention to not using paper whenever we can. I personally have everything written on my laptop, even the small notes. We send documents by electronic mail instead of printing them.



Detailed description of which things to put in each container-Owner: Tara Lozar

OTPAD KOJI SE ZAPRIMA U RECIKLAŽNOM DVORIŠTU	
PAPIR	... (text partially illegible)
METAL	... (text partially illegible)
STAKLO	... (text partially illegible)
PLASTIKA	... (text partially illegible)
TEKSTIL	... (text partially illegible)
GLAVNAZI OTPAD	... (text partially illegible)
ELEKTRONIČKI OTPAD	... (text partially illegible)
BATERIJE I AKUMULATORI	... (text partially illegible)
GRAĐEVNI OTPAD IZ KUĆANSTAVA	... (text partially illegible)
OSTALO	... (text partially illegible)

Not to mention that my company recycles paper, plastic, and metal in my office.

I am surprised by the fact that there is just a small number of people in my everyday life that know that metal is 100% recyclable. In our canteen there is also an example of reuse. The company that provides us food had introduced deposit for all plastic and glass waste. Because of that, we try to send them back as much waste as we can for them to turn it usable again.



That way, companies are co-operating, and I support that because I think that is a great way to get to the appropriate goal.



Besides my business life, I try to reduce as much as I can in my private life, too. We collect those big cream containers so kids can use them as moulds for snow bricks when making the snow castle.

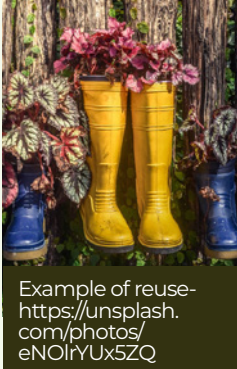
We also collect glass jars that we later paint and use for plant vases. In addition to that, we keep some old textile, and we sew unique clothes out of them. I would say I am aware of reduce.”

LET’S TALK about the real impact of reuse on your turnover: economically speaking, what are these figures?

“In regard to other companies that use a higher number of resources for work, it is probably minimal. Our policy is requiring only work with paper and digital work but I do consider that we still make good result with the possibilities we have at our disposal. I think that it is not spoken about in our media as in global media and therefore think that people are not informed enough. It is a fact that companies take big part in making a big amount of waste.

However, my company is doing whatever is in its power to make it the exception amongst other companies, as I had said it in the previous question. I do think that we could always do better, e. g. reducing the use of paper even more or lowering the consumption of electric energy.

INTERVIEWS: Entry # 37



I keep repeating the amount of paper because it really bothers me seeing all those piles that are unnecessarily there. Even though we have a rule to print everything both-sided whenever we can.

I would say education of the employees plays a big role in our system because it helps people not only in work but in life in general. If the majority of the employees is highly educated, they will be able to make shortcuts by fixing some smaller technical problems by themselves.

We live in the 21st century and I find it very sad that there are still some companies and industries that do not care about the waste and are breaking the laws. If we do nothing about the waste (and by 4R methods we could reduce its existence), how could we expect to have a good place to live?

Every reused thing is one step closer to making a big accomplishment in environmental protection and the economy, and in stopping climate change.



The process of reducing opens new jobs and our company really enables that and there are people specified for making new products out of reused parts. In conclusion, I think it is important to highlight that the “reducing economy” is vital and useful because it, amongst the other things said, encourages creativity when people decide what the thing they use again can be.



Reuse has many benefits and minimal disadvantages. I hope that my company, and all of the others will be able to cut all of the waste working by the principle of circular economy.”



Example of reuse - <https://unsplash.com/photos/UK7NpEU5i8>

REUSE

QUESTIONNAIRE

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

A	B	C
16%	8%	6%

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

A	B	C
10%	13%	7%

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

A	B	C
7%	13%	10%

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

A	B	C
6%	15%	9%

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

A	B	C
13%	12%	5%

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

A	B	C	D
12%	6%	10%	2%

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

A	B	C	D
3%	8%	11%	8%

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

A	B	C
15%	10%	5%

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
7%	14%	9%

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

A	B	C
15%	11%	4%

QUESTIONNAIRE



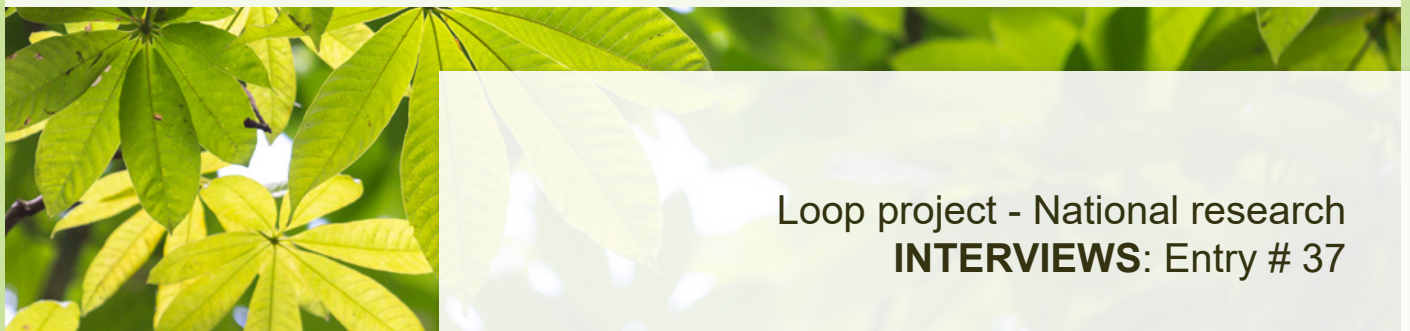
QUESTIONNAIRE

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

A	B	C
13%	8%	9%

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

A	B	C
11%	11%	8%



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