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Association for economic development of trade, business and industry enterprises



Round Table The project "CIRECON" program Erasmus+ Development of circular economy in European Union

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The circle is the eternal symbol of infinity, of perfection and unity. It is what connects yesterday, today and tomorrow, and it has no definite beginning or end. And generally speaking, the circular economy is the cycle of responsible and rational use of natural resources and materials in such a way that when the product fulfills its mission, it continues to live its life over and over again.





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While the **linear economy** is guided by the principle "takemake-dispose", the circularity leads us in several directions (and finally we are back at the starting position), which look more or less like this: design-production- use-reuse-recycle and vice versa.







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The main directions on the way to circularity are:

- sustainable product design (e.g. cups made from coffee grounds, clothing made from residual material);
- strong connections between technologies and manufacturers (authorized repair shops and installers, updates);
- extending the life of the existing one;
- rethinking business models;
- •(re)use of waste as a resource, etc.





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That's why today I decided to share with you our inspiring example from Bulgaria, which we can proudly say we put into practice. I do not claim to be exhaustive, but it is possible that in the future such projects will become everyday life for followers of the circular economy.

Let's start with the story:





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In 2012, we bought a laptop with good features and an element base. It was working fine, but in 2023 it started running slow and looping, slowing down our work and making us irritable.

Then we decided that the time of this device had passed and we were preparing to buy a new laptop. But working in the sphere of the circular economy, we thought about whether we could save this device from being thrown away, model it and make it serve us for so many more years.





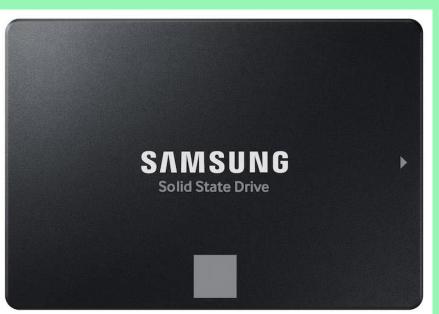
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Said, done:





The modernization was carried out with the purchase and installation by an authorized person of two electronic parts:

- 1. Additional RAM memory 2x8 GB
- 2. New SSD hard disk 1 TB





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The result was stunning:

1. Start up in 19 seconds and full operational interoperability of programs

2. Instead of investing 1,300 Euros to buy a new appliance, and

3. Thus increasing the carbon footprint, only 200 Euros were invested





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Disadvantages/ Weekness

1. The technology created in 2012, although it was top of the line for this laptop model, turns out to be outdated to take on the function and capabilities that the latest Windows 12 platform provides

In a word, the circular economy is applicable only when changing the paradigm of development of thinking about the economy as a whole





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