

CASE STUDY TITLE: RENEWING OLD FURNITURE, KABINET CB, RE USE CENTRE

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THEME: CIRCULAR ECONOMY (DESIGN AND PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, RECOVERY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT)

Cabinet CB is a social enterprise operating as a limited liability company. There are two partners, each owning a 50% share, it is a re-use centre that helps give furniture and household furnishings a new lease of life. The company was founded in 2019, the idea came from a community project to provide material assistance to users of social services in České Budějovice. Donated unused furniture was provided to clients in social flats. Later they also started to renovate and resell the furniture. People from the shelter were also involved in the activity.

Furniture is not only donated to the centre by individuals, but also by companies. They cooperate with a furniture bank.

The CB cabinet also runs a café. The café is equipped with adapted second-hand furniture and food is served on original crockery. The space is decorated with paintings from salvage yards that the CB Cabinet decided to reuse and repurpose.

They rent out their own furnished workshop for other projects, and used donated furniture is used in workshops.

Cabinet CB combines environmental, social principles (they employ more than 50% of their staff from disadvantaged groups) and focuses on local benefit.

In addition, the company offers courses for the public, mostly on the theme of upcycling, such as Sewing for Beginners, led by professionals, or the Re-use jars and cans course, which deals with the production of decorative containers from packaging materials. The enterprise offers property clearance, with usable items being taken to a re-use centre or the South Bohemian Furniture Bank, or disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.

The company continues to expand its activities in terms of content and territory within the country. The Cabinet aims to become a place to meet, shop, design re-use offices or provide a space for swaps and flea markets. They focus on the following types of activities: re-use centre, refurbished furniture shops, custom furniture refurbishment, clearance services, furniture and crockery rental, workshops, office rental, public workshops.

The price of a sewing course is for example 1000 CZK, a furniture renovation course costs 1900 CZK, the company also makes and sell in the e-shop various bags or pouches from old advertising banners.

Basic accounting information about the company is not publicly available on the company's website.

From 2019 to 2020, the enterprise has drawn subsidies from the European Union under the Operational Programme for Employment of around CZK 4 million; according to the 2020 balance sheet, the enterprise is mainly financed from external sources and even shows negative equity values.

However, there are also several similar companies operating in the Czech Republic. The company publishes on its website a document with the environmental results of its activities (Environmental Impact Assessment of the Cabinet CB project). It measures its

environmental impact through the reduction of municipal waste in České Budějovice and the reduction of its carbon footprint (by not burning furniture). In 2020, the company returned about 26 tonnes of furniture and equipment to circulation through its cooperation with the material bank, and another 26 tonnes were sold. Approximately 51,299 kg of CO2 emissions were saved that would have been generated by burning the 52 tonnes of equipment. The company does not measure its social impact.

STAKEHOLDERS: (1) CUSTOMERS – MOTIVATED USERS, (2) MOTIVATED EMPLOYEES, (3) SCIENTIFIC CENTRES)

LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND DONATORS, KOZEL BREWERY, FROM ROOM TO ROOM, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION RE USE FEDERATION, FURNITURE BANK OF THE SOUTH BOHEMIAN REGION, DIALOG CB, CITY OF ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

ETHICAL ISSUES (POSITIVE, NEGATIVE) IN RELATION TO THE SCENARIO: EDUCATION  
PROTECTING NATURE RESOURCES, FAIR PRICING, POSITIVE MOTIVATION OF THE FOUNDER

GREEN SKILLS ADDRESSED: CIRCULAR ECONOMY - DESIGN SKILLS, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, MANAGEMENT SKILLS, ENERGY SKILLS, FINANCIAL SKILLS, WASTE MANAGEMENT SKILLS, COMMUNICATION SKILLS

SDGS ADDRESSED: GOAL 12, 17

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