

Waste – Course 5

MOOC

THE REUSE OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS



2021-03-28

ECHO-Tourism

An Erasmus+ Project



ECHO-Tourism

With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





Version History

version	Date	Action	From	Comments
0	26/03/21	First Version of Waste Theme for MOOC	Eric Lecaplain	
1				
2				
3				
4				

Summary

Introduction2

1. Lesson 1- Getting rid of superfluous objects: The KonMari method2

2. Lesson 2- Giving a second life to objects3

 2.1 - Maintenance and repair3

 Where can you get your items repaired?4

 A third place, what is it?4

 The example of repairs coffees4

 2.2- Reuse.....4

3. Lesson 3 - Proposing a loan system for tourists5

INTRODUCTION

Is it necessary to change the decoration of the establishment, or simply to get rid of objects accumulated over the years in the storeroom or the back kitchen? Sometimes, it is necessary to start again on a healthy organizational basis in order to improve the operating conditions of your establishment. You have to face the fact that you will have to get rid of unused items or, on the contrary, acquire new items and invest. But how can you do to throwing “well” things away? How to give a second life to these objects?

1. Lesson 1- Getting rid of superfluous objects: The KonMari method



What we possess reveal a part of who we are, which may explain the difficulty of detaching oneself from certain objects. In order to keep only the essentials, it is necessary to list everything you own, and then take stock of everything you no longer need. Cupboards, wardrobes, storage areas or warehouses are often overflowing with useless objects. Sorting through your possessions to find out what you own will help you better understand your needs and those of your customers.

Some studies on the origin of happiness show that it diminishes with the increase in choices. Decluttering your storage spaces will help to optimize the operation of your establishment and improve the working conditions of your staff.

While most storage methods advocate a "room-by-room" or "step-by-step" approach to storage, the KonMari method, invented by the Japanese Marie Kondo, encourages storage by category rather than by room or location.

The idea is to gather all objects of the same use, for example household products and tools, and then divide them into three different piles: to be given away, to be sold, to be kept. The method is based on several basic rules:

- Taking storage seriously.
- Imagining an optimal or ideal way of running the establishment.
- Sort by category and not by storage location.
- Asking questions about the usefulness of the good and the joy it brings.

In order to learn how to separate yourself from things you no longer use, Marie Kondo advises you to experiment the method on your own. She also recommends tidying up in one go, for example during spring cleaning, so that you don't have to do it over and over again or postpone deadlines. If you don't have the time to deal with the sale of these items, you can turn to other alternatives such as donation.

2. Lesson 2- Giving a second life to objects



First of all, it is necessary to identify the condition of the property that you wish to get rid of. If the item is in good condition and can still be used, it can be reused rather than discarded or recycled. The object should then be taken to a place where it can be given a second life. For those who are more experienced with computers, the item can be put online on free donation or sales sites. For those who prefer to give priority to local exchanges, the item can be taken to a suitable structure such as: companies specializing in the reconditioning of objects, companies or associations in the social and solidarity economy such as local resource centers, rag shops or second-hand shops. Highly efficient reconditioning shops give objects a second life. A computer that is no longer in use because it is too slow or outdated? The shop will buy it back or take it back and make the necessary updates to give it a new life.

If the object is chipped, damaged, or no longer works, it is no longer just a question of wondering about its usefulness. If costs are to be incurred to restore it, it will be relevant to assess the interest of repairing it or throwing it away. If it has to be thrown away, it is necessary, as we have seen, to identify the nature of the object, then to deposit it in the appropriate recovery system. If it can be repaired, you can decide to keep it or to sell it to a third party who can repair it.

2.1 - MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

The first gesture to observe is simply to take care of your objects, respecting their conditions of use. However, despite all the care and attention that can be given to these objects, the inevitable may happen.



But don't panic! When an appliance breaks down, here are the questions to be asked:

- Can it be repaired?
- If so, can it be easily repaired?
- Can it be used for a long time to come?
- If not, can it be given a second life?
- Will it be recyclable at the end of its life?



Where can you get your items repaired?

If the product is no longer under guarantee and can no longer be returned to the seller, a whole repair network has been developed in recent years. First of all, through the internet. Platforms for exchanges between users are organized around repair, such as the American site iFixit, which specializes in repairing Apple devices, to which customers can be redirected.

There is also an ecosystem of independent professional repairers, “resourceries” or other structures working on repair and recovery. In addition, more and more physical locations are emerging as well. It is possible to learn how to repair yourself, such as third places, or repair cafés. Tourists may be interested in the process, so it is important to communicate about these different possibilities by telling them about suitable places when they arrive.

A third place, what is it?

A third place is a physical place that promotes "doing together". There are different variations: coworking space, shared workshop, fablab, solidarity garage, cultural wasteland, public service center and so on... These are places for exchange, knowledge transfer, repair and innovation projects of all kinds. Each third place displays its specificity, its operating principle, its mode of financing and management, its community, and therefore offers multiple and variable services. With the emergence of third places, cafés for repairs, bicycle repairs and even sewing repairs have also appeared. So many initiatives that are as inspiring as they are innovative!

The example of repairs coffees

Coffee repairs are not only an after-sales service. They permit to visitors to assist and even participate in the repair of their good. It is a friendly place where members can exchange ideas over a coffee. In one year, 200 tons of objects have been repaired in Repair Coffee shops around the world, avoiding the emission of 200 tons of CO₂.

2.2- REUSE

Despite all efforts, certain packaging or objects cannot be avoided. An alternative to reduce their direct disposal is to offer them a second life by diverting them from their original purpose or reusing them.

The boom of internet has made it easier to reuse goods at the end of life, particularly for second-hand resale and donation. Local associations also play an important role in reuse. They are often accessible and local, and facilitate contact with local actors.

Reuse practices may include the purchase of reconditioned or second-hand products, the sale of products already used at flea markets or garage sales, and the purchase or recovery of products already used from similar establishments. The idea is to extend life of an object, in particular by repairing, redesigning or recovering it. This can be done by buying second-hand, by reselling what is no longer used, or by donating it to a relative or association. From a financial point of view, buying second-hand products is cheaper!



It is important to make the difference between the terms "Reuse" and "Recycle". Reuse means using a product several times in its original form, while recycling means reprocessing a product to give it a new form. So before throwing an object away without further consideration, the avenues of reuse should be explored. Many flows can have a second life, such as bulky items and waste electrical and electronic equipment.

To encourage reuse within your establishment, it is possible to imagine different initiatives:

- Offer collection places for reusable objects to tourists. To encourage reuse, a bin can be placed in a room or at the entrance to the establishment so that customers can leave objects they do not wish to take back.
- Offer repair workshops on a regular basis to the establishment's clients.
- Identify and list the addresses of repair and re-use locations near the establishment.
- Offer to purchase or make available various second-hand goods. Set up partnerships with local recovery organizations.
- Transforming obsolete objects into useful or decorative objects is another original solution to consider.
- Offer end-of-life furniture or equipment to the establishment's employees free of charge or at reduced costs.

3. Lesson 3 - Proposing a loan system for tourists



On holiday, tourists often choose to travel light for convenience. But who hasn't been faced with the dilemma of investing in the purchase of a property that is already owned 10 times at home, such as a lighter or a corkscrew? So we are confronted with a dilemma of being completely disposable or durable, but more expensive.

Should I invest in a durable good that is difficult to keep or bring back and that I am sure to get rid of at term? Indeed, why invest in a bulky item and only used for a few minutes?

The other side of the coin is fixed. But so, how can I avoid the multiplication of purchases? Your role as a host or management establishment may be to offer a whole range of properties for rent. Here are a few ideas to help you put together your own reusable kits of crockery, bedding, tools and all kinds of objects ...

- *Defining the needs of tourists*

Before you start putting together these rental kits, make sure you identify needs of clients. Stuffing with unnecessary items will only make the original problem worse.

- *Putting together your loan offer*

To avoid consuming or investing in the purchase of new products, preference is given to goods from reuse and second-hand channels. Donations can also be appealed for or use of already existing but dormant stock. Goods



that are loaned or passed from hand to hand are used regularly and wear out more quickly. It is therefore appropriate to give a second life to second-hand goods that are unused and cheaper to buy.

- *Finding the ideal storage place*

A clean and dry place should be provided, free from mold, dust and pests. It must be easily accessible. Goods are stored in airtight, solid or even movable containers, depending on the use that will be made of them. Here are a few criteria to consider for containers: compactness, weight, size, resistance, durability.

- *Organizing the loan system*

Clear duty hours will have to be established and posted in a calendar. It will be necessary to be visible and reachable. For this purpose, different communication channels can be envisaged: a dedicated e-mail address, website or telephone number.

- *The offer must be available and visible to everybody*

The terms and conditions of the loan must be specified: loan form, rates if any, deposit or guarantees, hygiene rules, conditions of use. A monitoring table will enable stocks to be tracked. Ideally, in the long term, it will be necessary to plan to store the most frequently used items in duplicate so as not to be out-of-stock or overstocked in case of losses. It is necessary to anticipate losses and damage. The deposit system will allow you to reinvest in the event of damage.

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.