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WEEEWaste

WEEEWaste Newsletter #7

Improving policies for
management of electrical
and electronic waste
equipment

The issue addressed by the project is the necessity to implement **European coordinated approaches** for the management of **waste from electrical, electronic equipment (WEEE)**.

What happened in Semester 7

Pilot action activities - D2D REUSE

Slovenia

On **May 18th, 2026**, the **Environmental Research Institute (ORZ)** delivered a presentation at the **Technical School Centre Maribor** as part of the **D2D REUSE pilot**, **From Doorstep to New Life for E-Waste**. The event brought together **40 students** to explore the importance of **reusing waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)** and the role **reuse** plays in creating a **more sustainable future**.

During the presentation, students learned about **responsible management of electrical and electronic equipment** and the many opportunities to **extend the lifespan of devices through repair and reuse**. It was emphasized that a **significant number of electrical and electronic products remain fully functional** and could continue to serve **households, schools, local communities, or reuse centers** rather than becoming waste. By **keeping products in use for longer**, we can **reduce waste generation, conserve valuable natural resources, lower environmental impacts**, and encourage **more sustainable consumption patterns**.

The session also highlighted the **principles of the circular economy**, demonstrating how **everyday choices can make a meaningful difference**. Through **conscious purchasing decisions, proper handling of used equipment, and support for reuse initiatives**, individuals can actively contribute to **preventing waste** and promoting **more responsible resource management**.



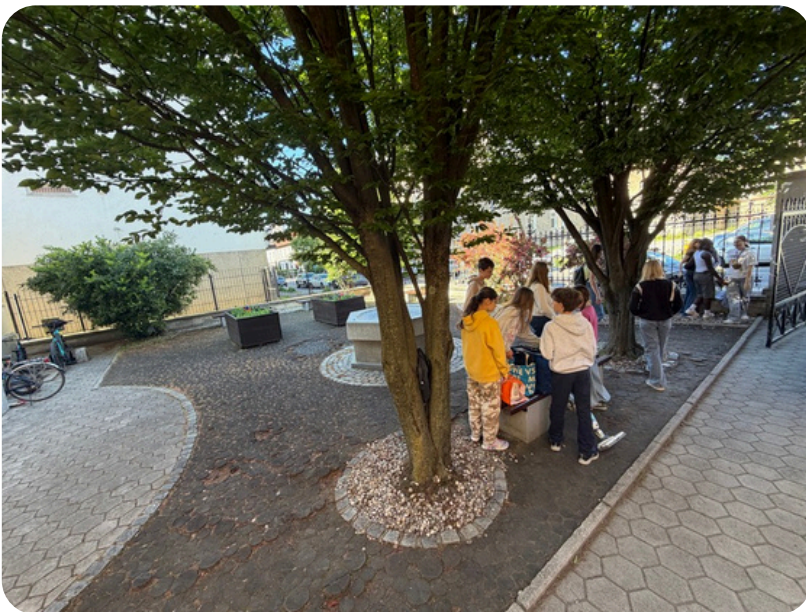
Insights from the presentation at the Technical School Centre in Maribor:



Slovenia

On **May 22nd, 2026**, an additional **collection and awareness-raising event** was organized at **Bojan Ilich Primary School in Maribor** as part of the **D2D REUSE pilot**. The activity continued efforts to engage the **wider school community** in discussions about **sustainability**, with a particular focus on the **reuse of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)** and the importance of **extending the lifespan of electronic devices**.

A total of **21 pupils** participated in the event, where they learned about the **environmental and social benefits of reuse practices**. Discussions highlighted how **reusing functional electronic equipment** can help **reduce waste generation, conserve valuable natural resources**, and support the transition to a **more sustainable and circular economy**. Participants were also encouraged to **reflect on their own consumption habits** and consider the **impact of everyday choices**. By promoting the **reuse of devices that are still suitable for use** in households, schools, and local communities, the event reinforced the importance of **preventing unnecessary disposal** and making **better use of existing resources**.



Attendees of the collection and awareness-raising event at the Bojan Ilich Primary School

Poland

The **8th edition** of the **Gdańsk Clean City Festival**, which took place on **May 23rd, 2026** at Targ Węglowy, once again proved that **ecology in Gdańsk** is far more than a slogan—it is a shared passion that inspires real action. The event attracted **more than 2,500 visitors**, who explored educational booths and participated in hands-on workshops that gave hundreds of **ties, clothing items, and banners** a **second life**. Participants also created **sewn bags, beeswax candles, and “seed bombs,”** showing that learning about sustainability can be both engaging and enjoyable.

One of the festival's biggest attractions was the **Repair Café, “Repair, Don't Throw Away,”** where experts demonstrated how minor faults in **household appliances** such as **mixers, blenders, and dryers** can often be fixed with a little effort and the right spare part. Visitors were particularly impressed by a unique **speaker built from an old washing machine drum**, which not only looked striking but delivered impressive sound quality. Alongside it, a **pedal-powered washing machine** showcased the limitless possibilities of **electronics upcycling**.

Through initiatives like these, the festival highlighted how **conscious everyday choices, changes in habits, and proper disposal of used equipment** can all contribute to a **cleaner and more sustainable Gdańsk**.



A display showcasing common household appliances and repair components



Demonstration of the pedal-powered washing machine

Slovenia

On May 23rd, 2026, the Environmental Research Institute (ORZ) organized a collection and awareness-raising event at Zelena Japka in Maribor as part of the D2D REUSE pilot, **From Doorstep to New Life for E-Waste**, implemented within the **WEEEWaste project**. The event brought together **13 participants** and served as an opportunity to present the **objectives of the D2D REUSE pilot** while promoting the importance of **reusing waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)** and **extending the lifespan of electronic devices**.

Visitors learned about the **environmental benefits of reuse practices**, including **waste prevention, conservation of natural resources, reduced environmental impacts**, and support for the transition to a **circular economy**. As part of the event, citizens were encouraged to **donate still-functional electrical and electronic devices** for potential further use, helping to **keep valuable products in circulation for longer**.

The activity also fostered discussions on **responsible consumption habits** and highlighted the importance of **preventing the unnecessary disposal of functional equipment**. By promoting **reuse** and encouraging **more sustainable everyday choices**, the event demonstrated how individuals can contribute to **reducing waste** and ensuring that **useful devices continue to serve households, schools, local communities, and reuse centres**.



Collection and awareness raising at Zelena Japka in Maribor within the D2D REUSE pilot

Slovenia

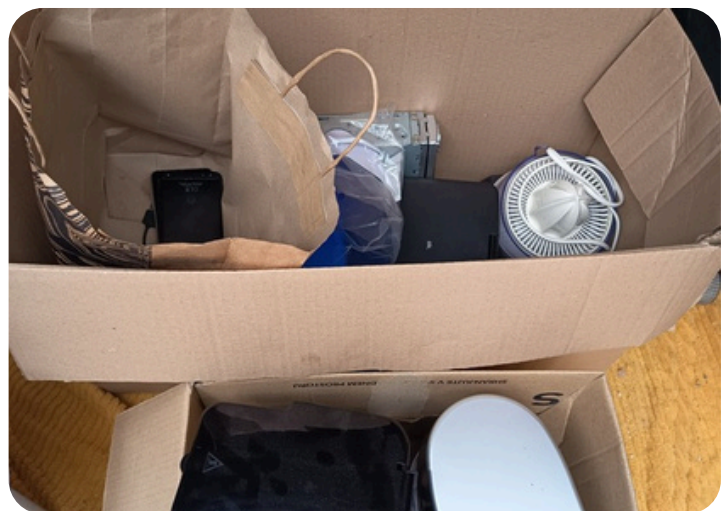
On **June 3rd, 2026**, the **Environmental Research Institute (ORZ)** held an **awareness-raising presentation** at the **Gustav Šilih Primary School in Maribor** as part of the **D2D REUSE pilot implementation**. The session brought together 58 young people with special needs and four teachers, focusing on the importance of **reusing waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)** and promoting **responsible, sustainable management of electronic devices**.

Participants were introduced to the **six main categories of WEEE—temperature exchange equipment, screens and monitors, lamps, large equipment, small equipment, and small IT and telecommunications devices**—supported by practical examples of everyday products. The presentation emphasized **proper e-waste disposal, reuse, and repair** as essential components of the circular economy, highlighting their role in **extending product lifespans, reducing waste generation, conserving natural resources, and lowering demand for new raw materials**.

Through **interactive discussion** and examples of equipment collected within the school environment, participants explored how many electronic devices are often discarded prematurely despite still being suitable for **continued use in households, schools, community organizations, or reuse centres**. The activity helped strengthen awareness of **sustainable consumption practices** and reinforced the **environmental value of giving electronic products a second life**.



Participants of the awareness-raising presentation at Gustav Šilih Primary School



Examples of collected e-devices

Pilot action activities - Electric and electronic equipment repair bonus

Repair shop map launched in Navarra

Spain

On **June 5th, 2026**, coinciding with **World Environment Day**, the **Government of Navarra** inaugurated the traveling **exhibition “Give them a second life”** at the Traperos de Emaús facilities. The initiative marks the start of a public awareness **campaign** designed to promote the reduction of **waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)** and encourage more responsible **consumption habits**.

The exhibition will tour **ten towns across Navarra** until October 2026, helping to raise awareness about reuse, repair, and proper end-of-life management of electronic devices. A key feature of the campaign is the development of a **“Repair Shop Map,”** which will guide citizens to local **repair services** for common household electronics such as **blenders, toasters, mobile phones, laptops, and tablets**. The map will include **addresses, contact details**, opening hours, and information on designated **collection points** for electrical and electronic equipment across the region, and will be continuously updated as new repair locations are added. The initiative was inspired by the work of WEEEWaste partner Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH.

The opening event brought together around **50 participants**, including the Regional Minister for Rural Development and the Environment, the Director General of the Environment, the Director of Traperos de Emaús, staff from both institutions, representatives from local waste management entities such as Orekan, and members of the media. The campaign aims to extend the **lifespan of electronic equipment** through repair and reuse, reduce **environmental impact**, and ensure that discarded devices are properly collected and dismantled so that valuable materials can be recovered and reintegrated into the production cycle.



The presentation of the repair shop map



A guided visit to the WEEE area within the facilities of Traperos de Emaús



Tablets and other electronic devices that are being checked and repaired at Traperos de Emaús

Slovenia

On **June 28th, 2026**, the **Environmental Research Institute (ORZ)** organized a **practical workshop** during the **Art kamp festival in Maribor** to present the **D2D REUSE pilot**, which is being implemented within the **WEEEWaste project**.

The workshop focused on **proper management of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) intended for reuse**. Through **practical demonstrations and interactive activities**, attendees learned how **extending the lifespan of electrical and electronic equipment** can help **reduce waste generation** and contribute to **more sustainable consumption**. The event was attended by 12 parents, who participated together with their children.

A key focus of the workshop was **raising awareness of the environmental benefits of reuse**, promoting the **efficient use of resources**, and highlighting the **principles of the circular economy**. By encouraging **practical understanding of reuse** and **responsible WEEE management**, the workshop supported the broader objectives of the **D2D REUSE pilot action** and the **WEEEWaste project** in fostering **more sustainable waste management practices**.



Insights from the practical workshop, held within the D2D REUSE pilot, during the Art kamp festival in Maribor

Czech Republic

On **August 18th 2026**, the **Local Stakeholder Meeting** was held at **CTU UCEEB**, bringing together representatives of public authorities, research institutions, academia and collective compliance schemes. The meeting focused on current challenges in waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) management, opportunities for reuse and recycling, the recovery of critical raw materials for industry, and upcoming changes in European legislation.

The meeting was opened by **Lenka Leila Madzurová (CTU)** and **Pavλίna Kulhánková (Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic)**. **Iva Janečková (CTU)** then presented the **WEEEWaste – Improving policies for waste management of electrical and electronic equipment project**, its objectives, main outputs and the experience of project partners in implementing policy improvements in their respective regions. The presentation also included WEEE collection statistics and examples of measures aimed at improving the further use and recovery of WEEE.

In his presentation, **Separate Collection and Recovery of Electronic Waste** as an Important Source of Critical and Strategic Raw Materials for Czech Industry, **Miloš Kužvart (Czech Association for Circular Economy)** highlighted the importance of WEEE as a source of materials that are essential for European industry. The discussion also addressed the Critical Raw Materials Act and its objectives for 2030. Participants stressed the need to strengthen the return of critical raw materials into industrial cycles while seeking more efficient approaches to the collection and processing of WEEE.

Jan Pešta (CTU) presented the issue of electrical and electronic equipment in buildings, from pre-demolition audits to environmentally responsible decision-making. He discussed the development of the pre-demolition audit process in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the use of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to assess the environmental impacts of products throughout their entire life cycle.

Particular attention was also given to the reuse and refurbishment of electrical and electronic equipment. As an example of good practice, experiences from a study visit to Inrego in Sweden were presented. The company operates an extensive system for the collection, refurbishment and reuse of electronic equipment.

A practical perspective on the take-back system was provided by **David Chytil (REMA)**. His presentation focused on WEEE collection and recycling results in the Czech Republic, legislative developments and the day-to-day challenges associated with the operation of the take-back system. According to the data presented, the Czech Republic achieves a high level of WEEE collection, at approximately 17 kg per capita, compared with an EU average of around 11 kg. Business collection schemes and municipal collection centres play an important role in achieving these results. The discussion also covered batteries, the legislative distinction between take-back schemes and waste, requirements for treatment operators, and the practical implications of regulatory changes concerning electrical and electronic equipment and lighting equipment.

The final discussion focused, among other topics, on the WEEELabex system, with participants noting that certification requirements for treatment operators may represent an administrative and financial burden. Participants also called for greater attention to be paid not only to collection rates but also to downstream treatment technologies and the recovery of valuable materials. In this context, **Pavλίνα Kulhánková (Ministry of Industry and Trade)** highlighted the forthcoming **Circular Economy Act**, which is expected to be published in the fourth quarter of 2026. The discussion also addressed the revision of European legislation, the extension of regulations covering certain chemical substances, and other measures aimed, among other things, at reducing the release of plastics, plastic pellets and microplastics into the environment. The meeting confirmed that the future of WEEE management is not only about increasing collection rates. Equally important are extending product lifetimes, repair and reuse, high-quality sorting, technologically efficient recycling, and returning critical raw materials to industry. Bringing these areas together is one of the key principles of the WEEEWaste project, which aims to contribute to improved WEEE management policies and systems through the exchange of experience, the transfer of good practices and cooperation among European regions.



Attendees of the Local Stakeholder Seminar of CTU UCEEB

Italy

On **August 31st, 2026**, the **Municipality of Campobasso** hosted the WEEEWaste project's **Local Stakeholder Seminar** at the headquarters of SEA S.p.A., the Municipality of Campobasso's in-house waste management company.

The meeting, attended by institutional representatives and stakeholders, aimed to **explore the initiatives carried out as part of the 'CLEAR' pilot project**, which enabled the **establishment of a mobile recycling point in the municipality's rural areas** and the **installation of collection bins for small WEEE items** in schools across the 18 municipalities within the Campobasso urban area, whilst also **launching a communication and awareness-raising campaign for schoolchildren to promote responsible recycling**. During the meeting, the president of Servizi e Ambiente S.p.A. provided concrete figures on the tonnes of electrical and electronic waste collected in 2025, which will be compared with the quantities collected at the end of the project in order to understand how the project has influenced and raised awareness amongst citizens. The Councillor for the Environment of the Municipality of Campobasso also took the floor to share the **lessons learnt through best practices** and during the study visits organised as part of the WeeeWaste project, explaining how these contributed to the implementation of the CLEAR pilot action. Finally, the opportunities available to local authorities in the urban area regarding the management of electrical and electronic waste (specifically the RAEE CDC) were presented.

The video of the event is available at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1Bzj8qMcqT/>



From left to right: Simone Cretella, Campobasso Environment Councillor; Gioanna Serio, GAL Molise staff member; and Mauro Vitolo, SEA S.p.A. director. (Image credit: GAL Molise)



Mobile recycling point for small WEEE items

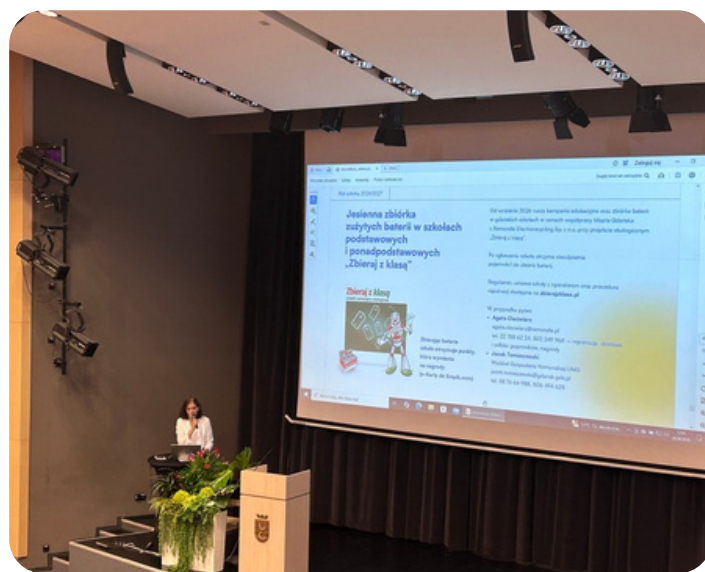
Educational campaign & collection of used batteries - Gdańsk



Poland

At the beginning of September, the **autumn educational campaign and collection of used batteries in Gdańsk** schools began as part of the City of Gdańsk's collaboration with Remondis Electrorecycling Sp. z o.o. on an environmental project /zbierajzklasa.pl/. The campaign was warmly welcomed by directors of primary and secondary schools in Gdańsk during the 2026/2027 school year kickoff meeting. After registering, schools will receive a free battery collection container and a contract with the operator. For collected batteries, the school will receive points, which can be redeemed for prizes.

We hope for the large participation of the entire school community in this valuable environmental initiative!



Insights from the information meeting on the environmental project 'Zbieraj z klasą'

Slovenia

On **August 31st** and **September 1st, 2026**, the **Environmental Research Institute (ORZ)** organised a **two-day Study Visit in Maribor** as part of the **D2D REUSE pilot**, which was attended by representatives of **Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Snaga Maribor** and the **Municipality of Maribor (MOM)**. The Study Visit provided an opportunity to review the pilot's achievements, exchange practical experience and discuss how reuse-oriented collection of electrical and electronic equipment can become part of regular municipal services.

A key focus was the pilot's **digital tracking system**, which enables each collected device to be registered and followed from collection through assessment and preparation to its final destination. During the pilot, **78 devices were collected and digitally tracked, with 64 prepared for reuse**, resulting in an estimated **82% reuse rate**. The programme also included a **stakeholder workshop** and **interregional learning session**, where participants discussed the **importance of convenient doorstep collection, careful handling of equipment, clear communication with citizens and transparent tracking**. The experience from Maribor demonstrated that the model can be adapted to other municipalities while maintaining its core principles of safe collection, assessment before recycling, preparation for reuse and documented final destinations. The Study Visit concluded with a positive evaluation of the pilot and a clear focus for the next step: moving from a successful pilot towards a **reuse-oriented municipal service**. The D2D REUSE experience shows how better collection, digital traceability and cooperation between stakeholders can help extend the life of electrical and electronic equipment and give unwanted devices a **new life instead of sending them directly to recycling**.

Insights from the two-day Study Visit within the D2D REUSE pilot in Slovenia:

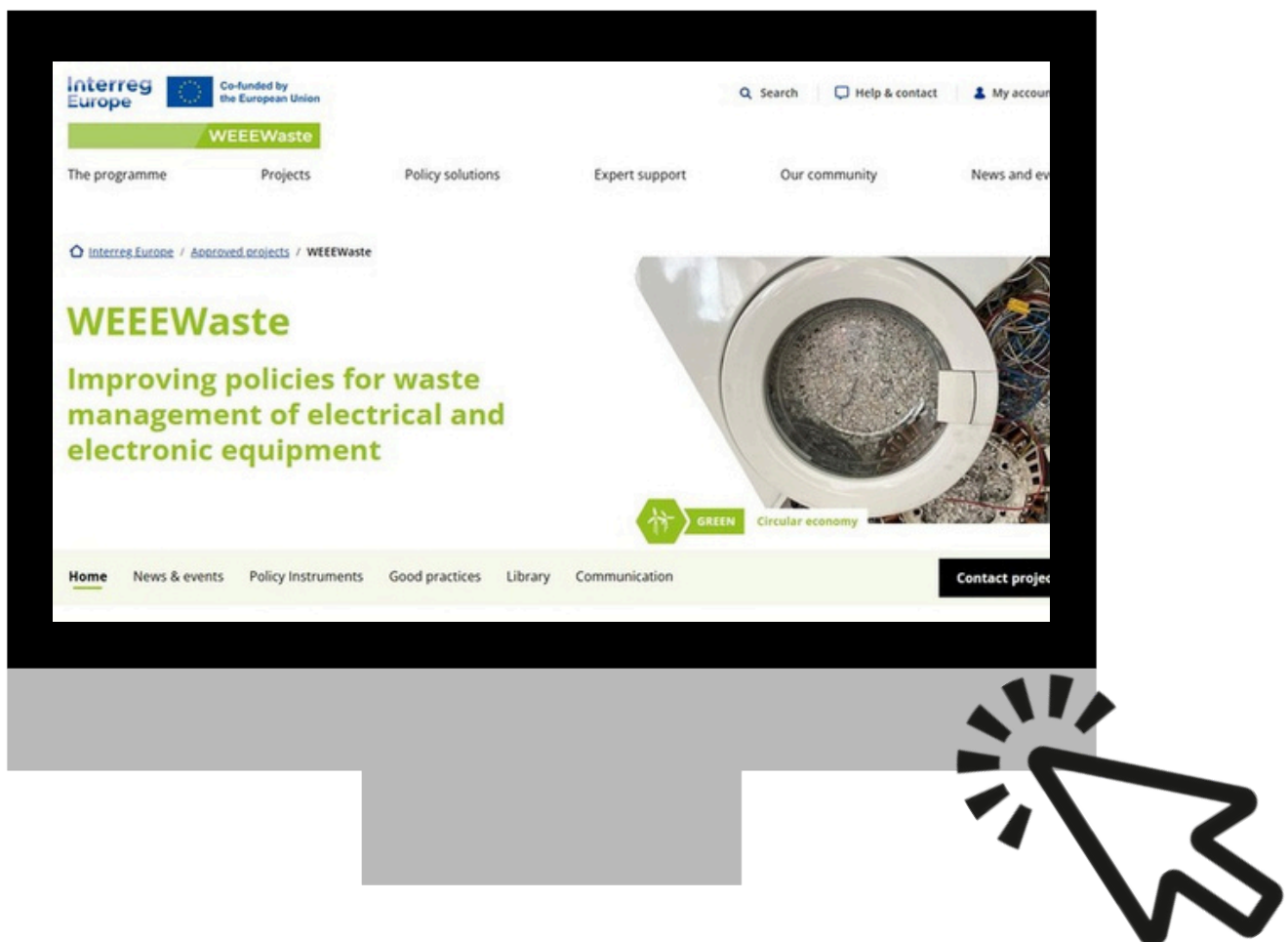


What to expect in Semester 8:

- The 2nd video of the WEEEWaste project, showcasing the results
- Final dissemination event



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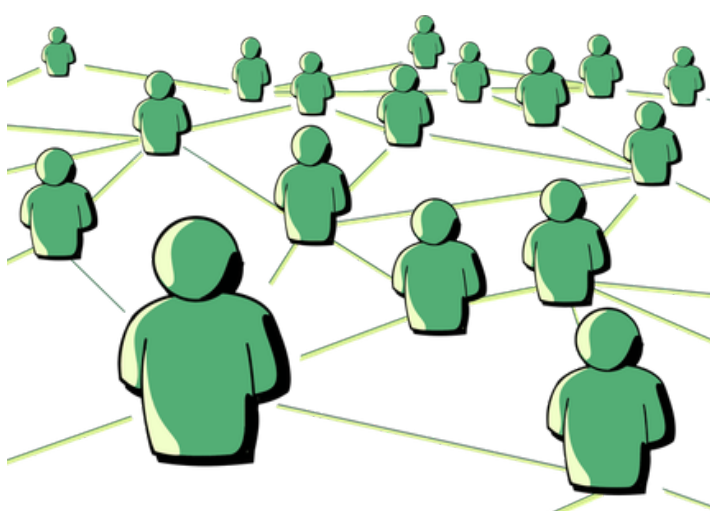
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