



Waste picker integration in Italy: A new high-performance re-use and recycling model

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Mission: To promote the reduction, recycling and re-use of waste, based on serious research, communication and awareness activities.

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In the spring of 2003 organized a consultation which was attended by more than 100 informal second hand operators of the city of Rome, with the aim to know their needs. One of their main demands was **to buy wholesale** the reusable goods of the municipal solid waste stream. An innovative proposal, that being born from below, aims to introduce re-use in the waste management and to reorganize the second hand economic chain.

To this day, the consultation has been extended to all the sectors second- hand workers from all over Italy, becoming a cyclical and permanent process.





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The second hand workers know perfectly the economical potential of the reusable goods that stay in the waste. ODR confirmed their perception examining the reusable flows of 22 waste collection centers in 21 municipalities of central and northern Italy. Depending on the number of residents served and on the local standards of price, the average retail value of the reusable goods of a waste collection center of a municipality fluctuates between **300.000 €** and **2.000.000 €** per year, in the most part corresponding at material destined for disposal and not to recycling.



150 interviews with Romani waste pickers active in the city of Rome, shown that in each bin on the street every day are thrown at least two objects of the value of one euro.

Multiplying 2 euro for 45,000 bins, you get 90,000 € per day and **33 millions € per year**.



By creating an intermediate offer
it would be possible for the second hand workers:

- To break down the transaction costs (less working hours of pickin and, in the Rom case, finishing the involvement of children in work)
- To increase incomes (due to a extremely elastic final demand, the greater availability of goods means automatically higher sales)
- To reduce bin rummage (that causes diseas and complaints related to urban decor)
- To implement a traceability system (that show clearly the absence of stolen goods)

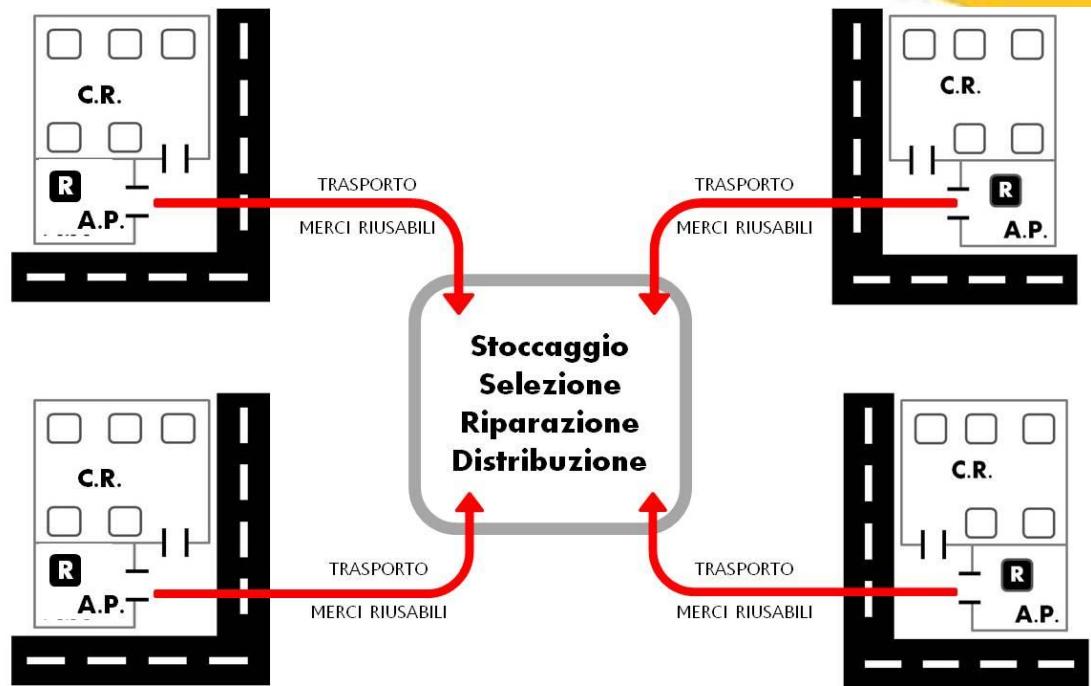


With the ideas of the second hand workers, ODR has been able to develop a model of preparation for reuse plant characterized by efficient management solutions and by commercial offers identified from the analysis of transaction costs for operators and with a social criteria

The ideal subjects to manage the the model are social cooperatives, which had as its mission the employment of disadvantaged workers and are happy to repair that do not provide strong earnings but simply cover its operation costs. Sell wholesale rather than retail, allows cooperatives to exploit the full potential of reuse of the waste stream.

Solution A: Reuse.

Simplest on the authorization level but with higher operation costs and lower capacity to intercept

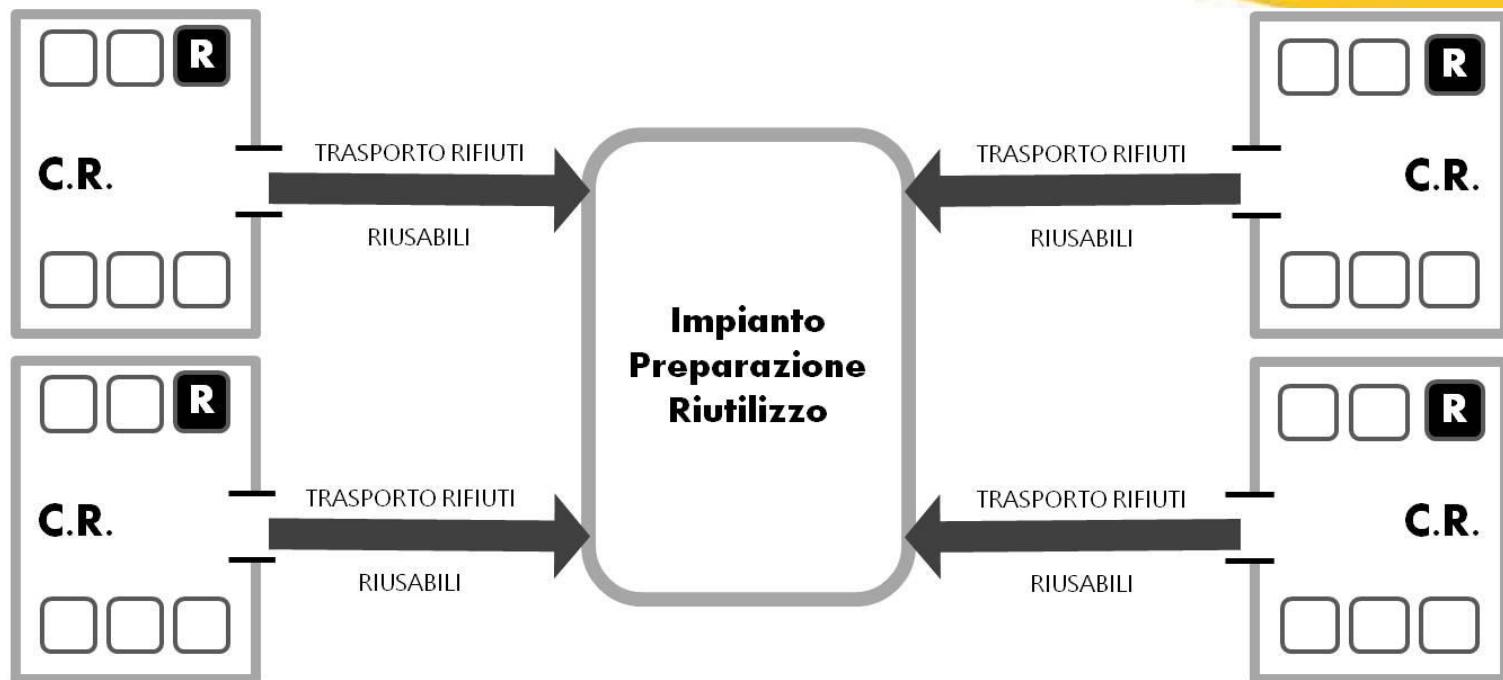


C. R. Centro di Raccolta
R. Recipiente per Merci Riusabili
A.P. Area Prevenzione

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Solution B: Preparation for Reuse.

More complicated on the authorization level but with lower operation costs and higher capacity to intercept



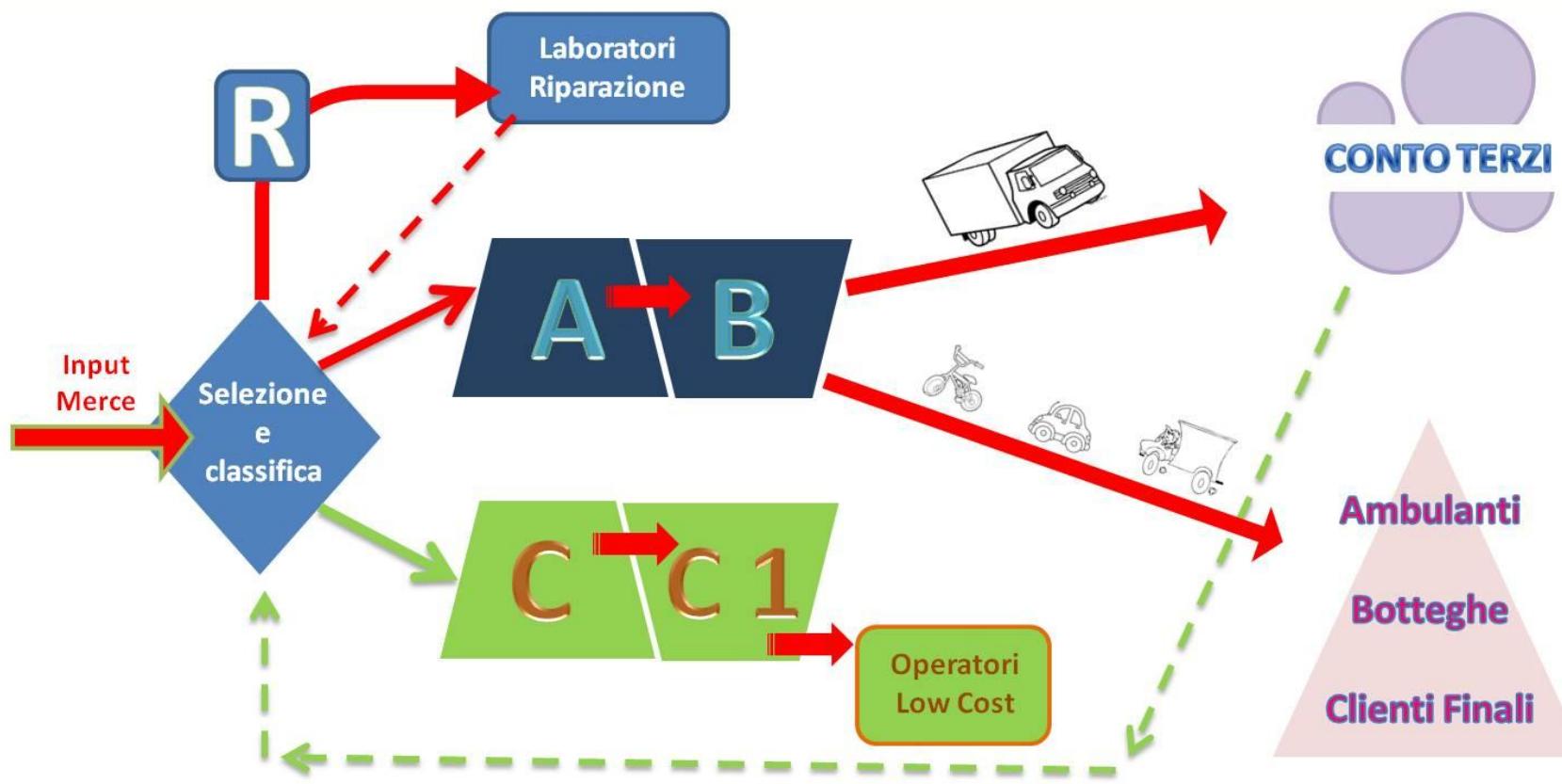
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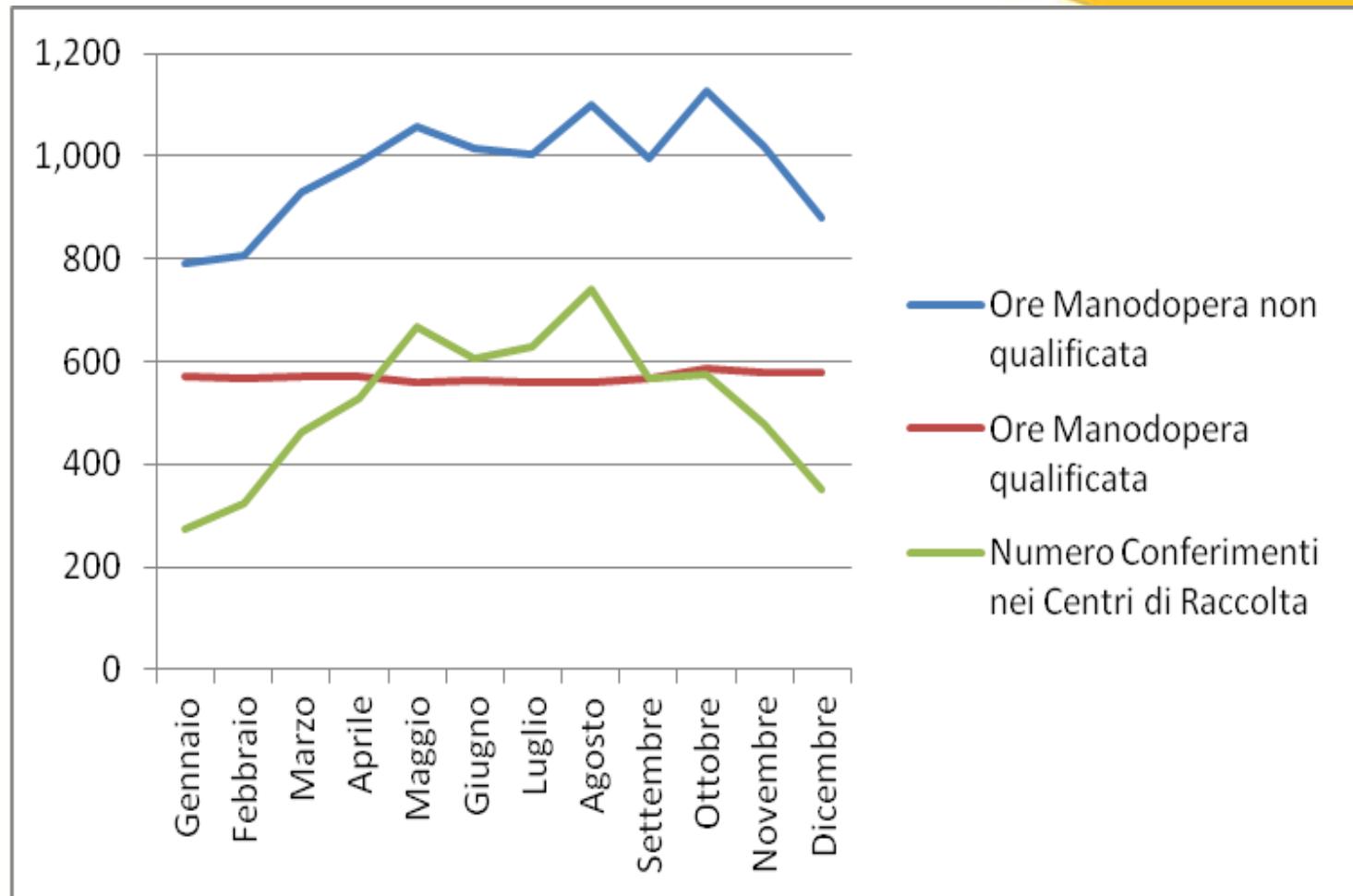
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The Preparation for Reuse Plant.

Logical warehouses with different degrees of classification to compensate the seasonal fluctuation effects on the qualified operational flow, and a system of wholesale stock composition that allow an homogenous output during the year despite the strong irregularity and heterogeneity of the input.







To achieve the restructuring of the system, representatives of the most importants second hand organizations create the **Rete ONU**, which is now talking to the local and national institutions to obtain rights, participation, incentives, not in assistancy terms but in productive contribution terms for the generation of local development and environmental benefits.

Today, Rete ONU represents directly **9500 workers**.

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In 2012, the EU has selected, under the program Lifeplus, the PRISCA Project ("Pilot project for scale re-use starting from bulky waste stream") to implement the model of restructuration of the second hand economic chain in two pilot cities:

Vicenza (northern Italy)

San Benedetto del Tronto (central Italy)

The Prisca Project has officially started September 1, 2012

Our partners are: Istituto Superiore Sant'Anna, Coop. Insieme, WWF Ricerche e Progetti, Valore Ambiente, Comune di San Benedetto del Tronto, Picenambiente

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Thank You!

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