



How to deal with (Right to) Repair?

Exploring RVO's Position in Supporting Businesses to Adopt Repairability Practices in the EED Sector

Project Summary:

This research explores how the Right to Repair (R2R) legislation impacts businesses in the Electric and Electronic Devices (EED) sector and evaluates how the Dutch Enterprise Agency (RVO) can support these businesses in adopting repairability practices. The goal is to improve RVO's support instruments, helping businesses transition to repair-oriented practices and contribute to a circular economy.

Methods:

The research and design process was structured using a mixed method approach, using the Double Diamond model. Key activities included:

- **Literature review** on Right to Repair, repairability practices and repair support measures
- **Semi-structured interviews** with RVO employees, industry experts, and business representatives.
- **Case studies** of businesses adopting repairability practices.
- Development of a **framework** to co-assess current RVO instruments and their potential for supporting repair.

Key Findings

- **Limited immediate impact:** The Right to Repair legislation has a minimal short-term impact on businesses
- **Challenges for businesses:** businesses face significant challenges in adopting repairability practices, which could benefit from government support to overcome.
- **Gap in RVO's support:** RVO's current support instruments do not align with supporting businesses to adopt repairability practices

Deliverables

The findings of this thesis resulted in an advice envelop for RVO: How to deal with (Right to) Repair. These include:

- **Strategic Recommendations** focuses on improving RVO's instruments and strategic position to make repair support more visible for businesses in the EED sector.
- **Instrument-Specific Recommendations** are aimed at refining RVO's existing support instruments to better align with repair support.
- **Implementation Timeline** provides a step-by-step roadmap for RVO on how to implement the proposed recommendations, ensuring both short- and long-term actions and key stakeholders are clear
- **Social Media Post** designed to raise awareness among businesses about new repair rules and how RVO can support them.
- **Visual Summary** to clearly communicate the key challenges businesses face in adopting repairability practices, offering a quick overview for RVO.

Theoretical and practical contributions

- **Enriches literature** by assessing repair challenges from a business perspective, an area currently under represented in literature, and applies these insights to government support measures.
- Offers **actionable recommendations** that RVO can directly implement to improve their support for businesses to adopt repair practices.
- Provides long-term strategic recommendations for RVO and **policymakers** to create a more repair-friendly business environment, supporting the shift toward a circular economy.



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