

FOSTERING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON REUSE THROUGH STUDY TRIP ON REUSE OF BUILDING ELEMENTS

Fruitful and inspirational FCRBE study trip in Utrecht on 20 June 2023.

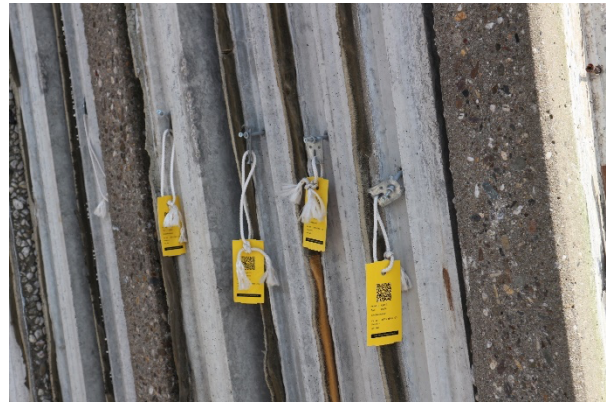


Reuse of building materials contributes to the prevention of CO2 emissions and the reduction of construction waste. Local authorities can make a large impact on the reuse of building materials through their building projects. On Tuesday 20 June, a special study trip took place about the reuse of building materials in public space projects. The study trip was organized especially for local authorities and their partners within the province of Utrecht. This study trip took part in the context of the FCRBE (Facilitating the Circulation of Reclaimed Building Elements) Interreg NWE project, that aims to increase the circulation of reused building elements in North West Europe by 50% by 2032.

The aim of the study trip was to inspire other local authorities in Utrecht with good practices on reuse, and inform them on how to stimulate reuse through integration in call for tenders.

The trip started at the Ivoordreef, the location where housing corporation [Bo-Ex](#) is together with developers [ERA Contour](#) and [Amvest](#) developing a new housing area, together with a several facilities such as a parking garage, a square and playgrounds. In 2022, the previous housing block was dismantled, providing opportunities for reuse of building materials. Bo-Ex and the municipality of Utrecht showed how were able to harvest building materials, mostly concrete panels, and their plans to apply them in the new project.





[Het Hof van Cartesius](#) was the next step. Here, network and sustainability company [New Horizon](#) showed how [donor buildings](#) are converted into new building materials, which will literally land in Utrecht, for example in the form of the [DOMsteen](#), but also in the form of [Urban Mining Concrete](#) (circular concrete). New Horizon showed the gap between current state of play of reuse – about 7% of building materials is after use re-used in a product of the same quality – and its potential – in the civil construction sector up to 60% reuse is possible. A call for action was done towards the authorities present to adapt their tender and procurement and provide more opportunities for circular solutions.

After lunch, an inspiring tour of the grounds of circular hotspot the Hof van Cartesius, followed. Het Hof van Cartesius is constructed by making use of as many reused building materials as possible and is also house to [Buurman Utrecht](#), a dealer for reused timber.



In the afternoon, the City of Utrecht took the stage to give a presentation on how municipalities can steer towards more sustainable civil engineering projects through procurement, with municipal projects, such as Cremerstraat, Croeselaan

and Bernadottelaan, as an example. In the following technical session, [Rotor](#), deep-dived further into integrating reuse in procurement, and what steps can be taken in this: from performing an material audit to setting quantitative indicators.



It was an inspiring day, in which we were able to inspire and exchange with colleagues from other local authorities on the work that is already happening within Utrecht and Europe in the field of reuse of building materials. We also gained new insights to be applied in future projects and identified remaining challenges. Regional cooperation on the field of reuse is key for better circulation of building materials. Through this study trip, the topic has been put on the regional agenda and will be further discussed in working groups of the regional alliance [Cirkelregio Utrecht](#).