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Graduation proposal: Review on ReUse of IT equipment in developed and developing countries



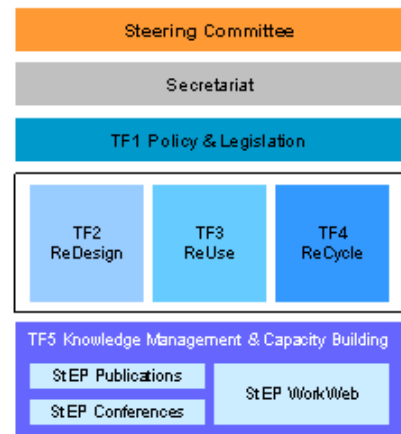
Graduation proposal / Thesis

Subject	Environmental, economic and social assessment of current practices for reuse of IT equipment (with particular focus on developing countries)
Date	01. September 2006, Cologne/Bonn
Supervision	Claudia Maurer, Ruediger Kuehr (StEP/UNU ZEF), Dr. Stephan Kunz (3p)
More information	www.step-initiative.org , www.3p-consortium.org

Introduction

The STEP Initiative (Solving The Ewaste Problem) is an international multi-stakeholder initiative, which is coordinated by United Nations University and has the intent to form a neutral arena to enhance and synthesize various efforts around the world for a sustainable handling of e-waste (waste from electric and electronic equipment).

The STEP Initiative is structured as displayed in the graph, the 5 Task Forces represent the main domains where StEP intends to advance knowledge. Each Task Force has presently a coordinator (organization) who is also member of StEP. For TF3 'Reuse' this is 3p Consortium for Sustainable Management, a system provider on sustainable management practices. Priority objective of Task Force (TF) Reuse is the development of standards for the reuse of electrical and electronic equipment in order to provide an essential contribution for the minimization of the e-waste problem. This should take effect in a holistic approach and not only integrate environmentally relevant aspects but also socio-economic criteria.



Objective

To review the market and the developments in the area of Reuse of IT equipment from an environmental, technical, economic, legal and social perspective as well as finding further criteria in order to draft a standard for the reuse of IT-equipment.

Research topics

1. Stock-taking of the current reuse practices
2. Reuse in Europe (regional containment)
3. Reuse in developing countries with focus on digital divide (regional containment)
4. Interfaces of reuse towards recycling
5. Definition of criteria which are relevant for "Best Practice" of reuse

The concrete topic of the thesis should be defined in collaboration with the students and the organizations involved.

Further information

Timeframe:	open (2006/07)
Target group:	Students (preferably as graduation work)
Location:	3p Consortium – Cologne and StEP/United Nations University Zero Emission Forum – Bonn (UN-Campus)
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