

REPAIR CAFE

Annual report 2020 - Summary

In 2020, far less repairs were made worldwide than in other years. This was due to the corona pandemic, which caused most Repair Cafés to be closed for most of the year. For the same reason, far less new Repair Cafés were started in 2020; only one hundred worldwide. Local repair services being absent has resulted in countless items unnecessarily ending up in the trash worldwide in 2020.

Repair Café International Foundation has worked very hard throughout this extraordinary and difficult year to continue to foster enthusiasm for repairing and to emphasize its importance. The foundation encouraged its international network to adapt services during the pandemic, for example by offering online repair help or organizing pick-up and drop-off services. This is partly to prevent volunteers from dropping out and not returning to their Repair Café after the pandemic.

Repair Café International actively promoted the Repair Café concept and repair in a broad sense to the world in 2020, through online marketing, interviews, lectures, presentations, attendance at panels, discussion groups and other types of sessions.

Director Martine Postma has been involved throughout the year as a member of the Dutch Circular Craft Centers coordination team. This team is guiding the building and national rollout of these sites, aimed at maximizing product reuse, through collaboration between environmental sites, thrift stores, Repair Cafés, educational institutions, and maker initiatives. Martine is specifically committed to ensuring a robust repair component in these initiatives. For example, she is thinking with external partners about ways to provide more professional repairers for the benefit of circular craft centers.

Repair Café International developed a new corporate identity in 2019 with the aim of appealing to a younger audience. In 2020, this new corporate identity was implemented step-by-step in all of the foundation's manifestations: the Repair Café starter kits, the website, the social media channels in five languages. This was a big job, requiring the redesign of hundreds of documents and document templates. The restyling of the Repaircafe.org website also began in 2020. This website will be further developed in phases into an inspiration platform about repairing.

In 2020 there were many contacts with young people. Several groups of students worked together to promote the Repair Café and repairing in a broad sense among a younger target group.

The RepairMonitor data collection tool was further developed in 2020 as planned, based on practical experiences of users. At the end of 2020, almost 300 Repair Cafés had an account with the RepairMonitor; at the end of 2019, there were over 200. Without the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of new users would probably have increased much more in 2020.

Repair Café International conducted numerous analyses of the RepairMonitor data through 2019 in 2020. A detailed analysis report was presented to the standing parliamentary committee Infrastructure & Water Management, among others. As a result of the report, member of parliament Carla Dik-Faber (ChristenUnie) asked State Secretary Van Veldhoven questions. During the year, numerous sub-analyses were also conducted on the repair of various products that are often brought to the Repair Café, such as lamps, jewelry, sewing machines, smartphones and laptops.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not possible to estimate numbers of repairs that were performed and succeeded, numbers of volunteers and visitors involved in Repair Cafés and the like for 2020. Repair Café International hopes that this will be possible again in 2021.