



**Assistive Technology Repair, Refurbishment, and Recycling
Technical briefing to WHO European Region Member States**

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Wednesday 8 October 2025 10:00-11:30 CET

1 Sept 2025

Original: English

Scope and purpose

Background

Access to appropriate assistive technology (AT) is essential for enabling participation, independence, and well-being for people with functional difficulties. According to the Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT), as many as 1 in 3 people need access to assistive products globally, while only 1 in 10 have access to the products they need.¹ Many countries face challenges in ensuring sustainable access to quality assistive products due to limited resources, supply chain disruptions, and market conditions.

The principles of **repair, refurbishment, and recycling** offer a pathway to extend the life cycle of assistive products, reduce waste, and improve affordability and availability. These practices can also support local economies, promote circularity, reduce the environmental footprint of AT provision, and reduce overall cost to the health system.

Despite their potential, the practice of repair, refurbishment, and recycling are often underutilized or overlooked altogether due to a lack of policy frameworks, technical guidance, and infrastructure. This briefing aims to raise awareness and build capacity among Member States to integrate repair, refurbishment, and recycling strategies into national AT systems.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe provides technical support on the procurement and provision of assistive products in selected Member States. Technical support provided to date has largely focused on policies, including data and AT financing, product standards and

¹World Health Organization, [Global Report on Assistive Technology](#)

specifications, and personnel capacity building for the provision of AT services. Given the significant challenges faced by member states in procurement and access to high quality, appropriate assistive products, there is a clear need for capacity building relating to additional concepts within service provision, notably repair, refurbishment, and recycling of products.

Aim

This technical briefing aims to support Member States in understanding and applying the principles of repair, refurbishment, and recycling of assistive technology as part of sustainable and inclusive AT systems.

Objectives

- Introduce the concepts of repair, refurbishment, and recycling of assistive technology and their relative advantages and disadvantages within AT systems
- Share country experiences and practical examples of implementing repair, refurbishment, and recycling strategies.
- Encourage dialogue on policy, regulatory, and operational considerations for repair, refurbishment, and recycling of assistive products.

Date and time

One 90-minute technical briefing will be held virtually. The briefing will take place on Wednesday 8 October 2025 from 10:00-11:30 Central European Time.

Participants

Participants will include representatives from relevant ministries of WHO European Region Member States. Each Member State is invited to nominate up to two participants for the meeting. Participants are likely to be representatives from health and social ministries and to be responsible for assistive technology policy development, and where possible, individuals responsible for repair, reuse, and recycling programs.

Languages and accessibility

The presentations will be provided in English, and simultaneous Russian interpretation will be provided. Preparatory documents will be available in English and Russian. Closed captioning will be available during the briefing.