

Fix the System; Repair as Resistance

Repair is more than fixing broken products it is a cultural and political act that challenges disposable systems. By extending the life of electronics, textiles, and other consumer goods, repair reduces waste, saves resources, and builds community resilience. Yet in many markets, barriers such as planned obsolescence, lack of spare parts, and limited consumer rights repair the exception rather than the norm.

This session will explore repair as a pathway to systemic change. From social enterprises creating green jobs in electronics, to community-based initiatives reviving skills in clothing repair, the discussion will show how repair contributes not only to waste prevention but also to empowerment and equity.

This session will ask:

- How can repair shift from being a niche activity to a mainstream practice in consumer markets?
- What systemic barriers prevent repair and how can regulation, design, and advocacy overcome them?
- In what ways does repair generate social value, from local jobs to inclusive participation?
- How can consumer movements reframe repair as an act of resistance against wasteful systems?

° 17:15 - 18:30 °

° Saturday, October 18, 2025 °

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Moderator: Ana Almeida (Circular Economy Portugal)

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Daniel Büchle (AfB social & green IT)

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