FROM WASTE TO NEW VALUE

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

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SYMCRAFT

One solution for the collaborations between Industry and Handicraft for the re-use/recycling of waste
Solution n. 3 (D.3.1.3.)



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The content of this document is based on the results of work carried out by the SYMCRAFT project partners and by the companies, artisans, researchers, intermediary organisations and other stakeholders involved in the project activities. This work included the development and testing of project-specific artificial-intelligence-supported tools used to assist selected tasks such as structuring information, identifying potential matches, supporting idea generation and developing product concepts, digital twins or feasibility studies. AI-supported outputs were treated as working inputs and were reviewed, contextualised and, where applicable, validated by the responsible project partners and participating stakeholders. The authors and project partners remain responsible for the final content, conclusions and recommendations presented in this document.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable presents Solution n.3 of the SYMCRAFT project: a set of three sector-specific Cooperation Framework Models for Agro-food, Textile and Wood & Furniture. The models are intended to support cooperation between industrial actors and the handicraft, design and craft-based SME sectors for the reuse or recycling of industrial waste and residual materials.

The Cooperation Framework Models constitute the agreement models developed under Solution n.3. They are designed as structured and adaptable cooperation frameworks with integrated optional signature sections and practical annexes. They can be used first as preparation and discussion tools and, where cooperation is sufficiently mature, adapted into signed cooperation arrangements after national and case-specific legal review.

The models clarify the key elements that should be addressed before material transfer or reuse takes place: parties, material stream, intended use, legal status, ownership and possession, quality and safety requirements, logistics, costs, confidentiality, intellectual property, liability, fallback procedures and next steps. This approach reflects the need to provide concrete project outputs while recognising that a transnational model cannot replace binding national legal advice.

Pilot Action n.3 confirmed that circular cooperation works best when legal and practical issues are clarified early, but without overburdening SMEs and artisans with heavy contractual language at the beginning of cooperation. The models therefore support a staged process from initial screening and material checks to small test batches, pilot cooperation and formalisation where appropriate.

2. ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
AP / ASP	Associated Partner / Associated Partner organisation
CE	Circular economy
D	Deliverable
D.2.4.1	Pilot Action n.3 report
D.3.1.3	One solution for the collaborations between Industry and Handicraft for the re-use/recycling of waste (Solution n. 3)
EU	European Union
GPT Tool	SYMCRAFT GPT Tool on Legal Elements and Cooperation Agreements
IAGF	Institute for Applied Research for Skilled Crafts and Trades
IP	Intellectual property
PA	Pilot Action
PA1 / PA2 / PA3	Pilot Action n.1 / Pilot Action n.2 / Pilot Action n.3
PPs	Project partners
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SOPK	Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry
WP	Work Package

3. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Background and scope

SYMCRAFT responds to the need to connect industrial symbiosis with craft-based creativity and circular-economy practice. Within the project, Pilot Action n.3 focused on models of cooperation between industry and the handicraft sector for the reuse of industrial waste and residual materials. The work addressed legal, technological, organisational and economic issues that influence whether industrial residual materials can be transferred and reused in craft-based products, services or prototypes.

This document presents an assessment of Pilot Action n.3 in the form of “One solution for the collaborations between Industry and Handicraft for the re-use/recycling of waste (Solution n. 3)”. The solution consists of three sector-specific agreement models for Agro-food, Textile and Wood & Furniture. These models are proposed as practical instruments to manage cooperation between industrial suppliers and handicraft or craft-based receivers of residual materials.

The solution includes practical suggestions for uptake by project partners and associated partners. It also provides a safe and realistic formalisation pathway: the models can be used as non-binding preparation tools in early cooperation and can later be transformed into signed cooperation arrangements after national legal and technical review.

3.2 Objectives of Solution n.3

The objectives of the Pilot Action n.3 assessed in this document are to:

- translate the results of Pilot Action n.3 into an operational solution for cooperation between industry and the handicraft sector;
- document three sector-specific Cooperation Framework Models for Agro-food, Textile and Wood & Furniture;
- clarify the key legal, technological, organisational and economic constraints that affect the transfer and reuse of residual materials;
- support industrial suppliers and craft or creative receivers in defining roles, responsibilities, material specifications, costs, logistics and fallback routes;
- provide a staged approach that does not force premature legal formalisation, but enables formalisation where cooperation is sufficiently advanced;
- allow partners to document uptake, testing or validation through the optional signature sections and practical annexes embedded in the sector-specific models;
- provide recommendations for uptake by project partners, associated partners and stakeholder networks during WP3 and after the project ends.

3.3 Link to Pilot Actions n.1 and n.2

Solution n.3 is directly connected to the previous SYMCRAFT Pilot Actions. Pilot Action n.1 identified residual materials, reuse opportunities, prototypes and cooperation cases. Pilot Action n.2 developed the eco-business-model perspective behind those cases. Pilot Action n.3 translated the technical and business-model experience into agreement models that clarify how material transfer and practical collaboration can be organised.

This connection is important for sustainability. Circular reuse does not become stable only because a prototype works or because a business model appears promising. It also requires an

agreement logic that makes responsibilities, safety, legal status and practical implementation transparent for all parties.

4. METHODOLOGY USED

4.1 Transnational and sector-based approach

The methodology combined a common transnational structure with sector-specific and national adaptation. It included document analysis, partner input, survey work, stakeholder engagement, model drafting, partner review and consolidation of evidence. The work was organised through three sector-based working groups reflecting the main SYMCRAFT sectors and their different material, safety, legal and cooperation needs.

Table 1: Sector-based working groups under Pilot Action n.3

SYMCRAFT partners	Main focus
PP05-WPRED; PP09-B&S; PP10-UIL	Agro-food residual materials, hygiene and storage questions, traceability, by-product/waste classification, non-food and regulated uses, and practical cooperation formats for small-scale actors.
PP03-JHK; PP04-SOPK; PP07-TPLJ; PP08-IAGF; PP11-TZH	Textile residual materials, sorting and quality, small and irregular material flows, design/IP/branding, product safety, and use by craft, design and creative actors.
LP01-t2i; PP02-FCF; PP06-HAMAG-BICRO	Wood offcuts, veneer, panels, furniture components and mixed manufacturing residues, including quality, liability, logistics, material transfer and design-oriented reuse.

4.2 Survey, partner input and model development

The legal-aspects survey was used as one input channel. It collected information on cooperation needs, stakeholder roles, sector context and legal or contractual topics relevant to industry-craft cooperation. Because the export also contained incomplete and non-submitted attempts, the consolidated analysis used the fully submitted responses as the official cleaned basis.

Table 2: Cleaned legal-aspects survey basis

Indicator	Number / scope	Use in Solution n.3
Total rows in survey export	166	Raw export only; includes early dropouts and non-submitted attempts.
Fully submitted / cleaned responses	97	Official cleaned basis for general analysis.
Cleaned responses with explicit sector attribution	93	Official basis for sector-based analysis without manual recoding.
Main sectors covered	Agro-food; Textile; Wood & Furniture	Sector analysis is based on explicit sector attribution.
Roles covered	Craft; Industry	The cleaned dataset covers both sides of potential cooperation.
Use in D.3.1.3	Supporting evidence only	Survey results are combined with interviews, workshops, bilateral consultations and partner contributions.

The methodology also integrated experience from Pilot Action n.1 and Pilot Action n.2, including material flows, prototypes, feasibility considerations and Circular Eco-Business Model Canvas outputs. Draft models were discussed and reviewed through partner meetings, workshops, bilateral exchanges, testing preparation and stakeholder feedback. The process distinguished between discussed, reviewed, tested, prepared for testing and signed cases. This distinction is important because not every cooperation case reaches the same maturity level within the pilot period.

The validation logic is aligned with the WP3 assessment process, including partner and associated-partner feedback collected during WP3 exchanges and, where applicable, interim and final evaluation committee meetings. This supports the validation of the three agreement models and their uptake beyond the pilot phase.

4.3 Supporting orientation instruments

The SYMCRAFT GPT Tool on Legal Elements and Cooperation Agreements was used as a supporting orientation instrument. It helped partners and users identify typical legal and contractual issues, prepare questions and connect legal-information topics with the Cooperation Framework Models. The tool is not legal advice and does not replace national or case-specific review.

5. RESULTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Main implementation results

Pilot Action n.3 resulted in a consolidated set of cooperation model elements that can be used to structure cooperation between industrial material suppliers and handicraft, design or creative receivers. The implementation produced three sector-specific Cooperation Framework Models, a shared understanding of the main legal and contractual issues, a cleaned survey basis, partner contributions from all project countries and a set of cross-sector lessons for further uptake. The implementation confirmed that cooperation frameworks must address both practical and legal questions. Key topics include product and work safety, ownership and possession of residual materials, confidentiality and business secrets, conformity with EU and national law, liability and warranty, logistics, intellectual property and design rights, pricing, payment conditions, disposal or take-back responsibilities, duration and termination, and dispute settlement.

5.2 Legal, operational and sector-specific results

The work showed that the three sectors require a common cooperation logic but different technical questions. Agro-food cases require particular caution because residual streams may be linked to food, feed, animal by-products, hygiene, traceability, spoilage, allergens, cosmetics, fertilisers or other regulated uses. Textile cases often involve sorting, irregular supply, fibre composition, chemical treatments, labels, branding, design rights and product safety. Wood & Furniture cases require attention to coatings, adhesives, hazardous treatments, composite materials, moisture, load-bearing uses and final product liability.

The common result across all sectors is that material transfer should not be treated as a simple donation or informal handover without documentation. Even small-scale cooperation benefits from a clear description of the material, intended use, responsibilities and fallback arrangements. At the same time, the process must remain usable for SMEs and artisans.

5.3 Local and transnational results

At the local level, project partners used workshops, interviews, bilateral consultations, pilot collaborations and stakeholder contacts to test whether the model structure was understandable and practically useful. At transnational level, the partnership consolidated these inputs into a common solution logic that can be adapted by country and sector. Company and stakeholder names are not used in the main body of this solution. Where partner contributions contain identifiable cases or company examples, these are treated as anonymised evidence for the consolidated findings and may be kept as supporting documentation by the responsible partners.

5.4 Practical result logic

The implementation showed that the models should not be treated as ready-to-sign legal contracts without adaptation. Their practical value lies in preparing and structuring cooperation: they make unclear points visible, create a shared language for industry and craft actors, and help parties decide whether a material stream can move into testing, needs clarification, or should not be used. Where cooperation is sufficiently advanced, the models can be adapted and signed after national and case-specific legal review.

6. MODELS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN ARTISANS AND THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

6.1 Common structure of the models

The three sector-specific Cooperation Framework Models constitute the agreement models developed under Solution n.3. They are designed for the Agro-food, Textile and Wood & Furniture sectors and support industrial suppliers and handicraft, design or craft-based SME receivers in structuring cooperation for the reuse or recycling of industrial waste and residual materials.

The models are not intended to replace national legal advice or case-specific contractual drafting. Rather, they provide a structured and signature-enabled Cooperation Framework that can be adapted to concrete material streams, national legal requirements and the maturity of the cooperation. Each model clarifies the main elements required before material transfer or reuse can take place: parties, material description, intended use, legal status, ownership and possession, quality and safety requirements, logistics, costs, confidentiality, intellectual property, liability, fallback procedures and next steps.

For the purpose of WP3 uptake, the models may be used in two ways. First, they can serve as non-binding preparation and discussion tools during early-stage cooperation. Second, where cooperation cases are sufficiently advanced and national requirements have been checked, the optional signature clause within the relevant model may be used in a signed final version or the parties may conclude a separate binding agreement. This approach keeps the evidence of uptake within the agreement model itself and avoids creating a parallel “confirmation sheet” outside the contract logic.

The proposed approach is particularly relevant because the legal status of residual materials, waste, by-products or secondary raw materials cannot be determined in a generic transnational template. It depends on the concrete material stream, intended use, national implementation, product safety requirements and the responsibilities of the parties involved. Therefore, the models follow a staged logic: initial screening, material and legal-status check, small test batch, pilot cooperation and formalisation where appropriate.

Table 3: Overview of the three sector-specific cooperation models

Model	Focus and main checks
Agro-food Cooperation Framework Model	Non-food/non-feed circular uses of peels, shells, husks, fibres, seeds, pits, spent grain, coffee grounds, cereal residues or plant fibres. Main checks: legal status, hygiene, storage, traceability, perishability, allergens, temperature, contamination, product safety, cost allocation and fallback routes. High-risk uses require additional legal and technical review.
Textile Cooperation Framework Model	Transfer and reuse of fabric offcuts, surplus fabrics, yarn residues, deadstock, samples, defective stock, trims and accessories. Main checks: material status, sorting, packing, logistics, textile safety, high-risk uses, confidentiality, IP/design/branding and fallback handling.
Wood & Furniture Cooperation Framework Model	Reuse of solid wood offcuts, boards, panels, veneer, furniture components, sawdust, shavings and mixed wood-based residues. Main checks: material specification, legal status, quality and safety, liability, storage, delivery, cost-sharing, IP/design/branding and fallback handling.

6.2 Agro-food Cooperation Framework Model

The Agro-food model supports circular uses of Agro-food residual materials, primarily in non-food and non-feed contexts. It is the most sensitive sector from a regulatory perspective. Hygiene, traceability, perishability, allergens, animal-origin materials, temperature control, contamination and shelf-life need to be assessed before any material is transferred. The model therefore emphasises cautious screening and clear limitations on intended use.

Recommended Agro-food model elements include:

- detailed description of the residual material, including source process, composition, batch size, expected frequency, moisture, temperature and shelf-life;
- confirmation whether the material is waste, by-product, food, feed, animal by-product or another regulated material under national and EU rules;
- hygiene and traceability information, including storage conditions, potential contamination, allergens and cleaning requirements;
- explicit restriction of high-risk uses unless additional legal and technical checks are completed;
- fallback routes for materials that are spoiled, contaminated, legally unclear or unsuitable for the intended craft/design use.

6.3 Textile Cooperation Framework Model

The textile model supports cooperation around fabric offcuts, surplus fabrics, yarn residues, deadstock, samples, defective stock, trims and accessories. Textile cases often have smaller and irregular material flows, making practical sorting, quality and logistics central. Legal and contractual issues are strongly connected to product safety, fibre composition, chemical treatments, branding, design rights, confidentiality and the final product's intended use.

Recommended textile model elements include:

- material categorisation by fibre composition, finishing, treatment, coatings, colour, size, contamination and repeatability of supply;
- quality and sorting rules for usable and non-usable materials, including packing, labelling and storage expectations;
- clarification of high-risk applications such as children's products, skin-contact uses, PPE, hygiene-sensitive products or regulated textile uses;

- rules on brand labels, logos, design rights, patterns, prototypes, communication and confidentiality;
- simple logistics and cost-sharing provisions, especially where material volumes are irregular or donated.

6.4 Wood & Furniture Cooperation Framework Model

The wood and furniture model supports reuse of solid wood offcuts, boards, panels, veneer, furniture components, sawdust, shavings and mixed wood-based residues. These cases are often practical and design-oriented, but they still require careful attention to coatings, adhesives, hazardous treatments, composite boards, moisture, load-bearing uses, product safety and liability.

Recommended wood and furniture model elements include:

- material specification by wood species or material type, size, grade, moisture, coatings, adhesives, treatments and possible hazardous substances;
- clear limits on intended use, especially for load-bearing products, public-space applications or uses involving fire, children or intensive contact;
- quality criteria for acceptance, rejection and storage of offcuts or components;
- liability allocation for the condition of material at transfer and for final products placed on the market;
- rules on design, branding and prototype ownership where cooperation leads to new products or demonstrators.

6.5 Signature-enabled Cooperation Frameworks

The models are most useful when applied in stages. The following workflow reflects the practical lessons from Pilot Action n.3 and supports a gradual transition from initial interest to possible formalisation.

Table 4: Recommended staged uptake workflow

Stage	Main action and output
1. Initial screening	Identify parties, material stream, intended use and basic constraints. Output: cooperation summary sheet.
2. Material and legal check	Describe material, quality, safety, legal status and national requirements. Output: material specification and legal-status notes.
3. Small test batch	Transfer a limited batch, document condition and test usability. Output: batch check sheet and feedback.
4. Pilot cooperation	Clarify logistics, responsibilities, costs, IP, confidentiality and fallback procedures. Output: adapted cooperation framework.
5. Formalisation if needed	Obtain national legal review and adjust wording to the concrete case. Output: possible signed agreement or long-term cooperation procedure.

Where advanced cooperation cases are available, the relevant model may be signed in a final adapted version or used as the basis for a separate signed cooperation arrangement. Signature should only take place after national and case-specific legal review. The signature function is therefore part of the agreement model, not a stand-alone WP3 reporting form.

7. SUMMARISATION OF FINDINGS

7.1 Cross-sector findings

The consolidated partner contributions show a clear pattern. The cooperation models are useful because they make uncertain issues visible early, but they must remain practical, modular and non-binding at the preparation stage. Generic model agreements are useful only if they are adapted to the concrete sector, country and material stream.

- Early clarification of material ownership, legal status and responsibilities is essential for all cooperation cases.
- The models work best as staged agreement models: first as checklists and discussion frameworks, later as possible contractual bases after legal review.
- National legal review is required before practical or binding use, especially where waste/by-product classification, food safety, product safety or registration obligations are relevant.
- Small-scale actors need accessible language, a modular structure and, in some countries, native-language or bilingual versions.
- The green/yellow/red workflow is a helpful practical device for deciding whether material transfer can proceed, needs clarification, or must be suspended.
- Trust-building and clear incentives are as important as legal clauses, particularly where stakeholders are used to informal transfer, donations or handshake arrangements.
- The transition from pilot cooperation to formal uptake belongs to WP3 / Output 3.3 / D.3.1.3 and to future post-project use.

7.2 Legal and contractual aspects identified

Table 5: Main legal and contractual aspects identified

Topic	Consolidated finding
Ownership / material transfer	Clarify when possession, ownership and practical responsibility for the residual material pass from supplier to receiver.
Waste / by-product / secondary raw material status	Legal classification determines whether simple transfer is possible or whether waste-management, by-product, end-of-waste, registration or authority requirements apply.
Quality and safety	Define quality, contamination thresholds, sorting, moisture, hygiene, treatment, coatings, acceptance criteria and safety checks.
Liability and warranty	Allocate responsibility for the condition of material at transfer, subsequent processing and final products placed on the market.
Confidentiality / trade secrets	Protect production, technical, commercial and cooperation-related information while allowing non-sensitive project reporting.
IP / design / branding	Clarify ownership and use of designs, prototypes, patterns, branding, product concepts and communication.
Pricing / cost sharing	Clarify donation, no-cost transfer, handling fee, sorting fee, symbolic price, commercial transfer, transport cost and possible revenue-sharing.
Logistics / storage / delivery	Define transport responsibility, storage, delivery rhythm, batch documentation and what happens if supply is irregular.
Duration / termination	Use pilot periods and simple termination rules where cooperation is uncertain or material supply depends on production cycles.

Topic	Consolidated finding
Fallback if material cannot be used	Suspend use if material is unsafe, unlawful, contaminated, spoiled, legally unclear or does not correspond to the material specification.
Need for national legal checks	All models require country- and case-specific review before binding use. The project tools provide orientation only.

7.3 Sector-specific constraints

Agro-food is the most sensitive sector because material streams may be linked to food, feed, animal by-products, cosmetics, fertilisers, soil improvers, composting, biogas or other regulated uses. Textile and Wood & Furniture cases are often easier to approach through practical material specifications, but they still require attention to product safety, treatments, chemicals, high-risk uses, design rights and liability.

A specific lesson from several countries is that formalisation should not be forced too early. Cooperation often begins with small test batches, exploratory workshops, bilateral exchanges or prototype development. The Cooperation Framework Models should support this gradual process rather than replace it with heavy contracts at the first contact.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the implementation and validation of Pilot Action n.3, the following recommendations are proposed for project partners, associated partners and stakeholder networks:

1. Use the three Cooperation Framework Models as the official agreement models of Solution n.3. Present them as structured, adaptable and signature-enabled Cooperation Frameworks, not as generic final legal contracts.
2. Use the integrated signature sections and practical implementation annexes of the three Cooperation Framework Models to document uptake, testing, review or preparation for signed cooperation arrangements.
3. Start with small test batches. Small-scale testing reduces risk, builds trust and creates concrete evidence for material quality, logistics, costs and product potential.
4. Carry out national legal checks before binding use. Waste/by-product classification, food/feed questions, product safety, registration requirements and liability rules differ by country and material stream.
5. Adapt the models to the sector. Agro-food, Textile and Wood & Furniture materials require different questions, restrictions and technical information.
6. Keep the language accessible. SMEs, artisans and designers are more likely to use the models if the documents remain modular, clear and practical. Native-language or bilingual versions should be prepared where helpful.
7. Clarify ownership, possession and responsibility early. The models should always identify when practical responsibility for the material passes from supplier to receiver and who is responsible for transport, storage, testing and fallback.
8. Document quality and safety criteria. Material descriptions, acceptance criteria, contamination thresholds and intended uses should be recorded before transfer.
9. Address costs and incentives openly. Donation, handling fees, transport costs, sorting effort and possible revenue-sharing should be clarified even in informal pilot cooperation.

10. Use the green/yellow/red workflow. This helps parties decide whether material transfer can proceed, needs clarification, or must be suspended.
11. Use the SYMCRAFT GPT Tool only as orientation. The tool can support questions and discussion, but it does not replace professional legal or technical advice.
12. Maintain evidence for uptake. Partners should keep workshop records, survey results, feedback, draft models, completed cooperation summaries, material sheets, delivery or fallback forms, signed final versions where available and anonymised case documentation.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Solution n.3 provides a practical and transferable framework for increasing cooperation between industry and the handicraft sector for the reuse and recycling of industrial waste and residual materials. The three sector-specific agreement models address the main legal, technological, organisational and economic issues identified during Pilot Action n.3.

The revised approach balances two requirements. It demonstrates the concrete output foreseen by the project: three agreement models for Agro-food, Textile and Wood & Furniture. At the same time, it avoids overstating the legal effect of a transnational template. Binding use must remain subject to national and case-specific legal review.

The models are therefore best understood as a staged uptake instrument. They help parties clarify cooperation before material transfer, support safe testing, create evidence for uptake and prepare more formal arrangements where this is appropriate. This makes the solution usable for SMEs and artisans while remaining credible for project reporting and future policy or innovation-plan transfer.

The integrated signature and practical-sheet logic strengthens the validation logic of the deliverable. It allows project partners and stakeholders to document whether a model has been discussed, reviewed, tested or used as the basis for a signed cooperation arrangement. This creates a bridge between pilot activity and long-term cooperation after the end of SYMCRAFT.

10. ANNEXES

The following annexes form an integral part of Solution n.3 and document the three sector-specific agreement models developed under Pilot Action n.3. The annex 4 is a common Replication Guideline. The annexes are accessible by **clicking on particular Annex link**:

- Annex 1: Agro-food Cooperation Framework Model
- Annex 2: Textile Cooperation Framework Model
- Annex 3: Wood & Furniture Cooperation Framework Model
- Annex 4: Replication Guideline for Solution 3

Where signed or case-specific adapted versions contain confidential company information, they may be kept by the responsible partners as supporting evidence and referenced in anonymised form in the public deliverable.