

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024

 Kringwinkel

Afrop
Snelweg →



Sustainability is not a fashion trend or a new business opportunity. It doesn't mean caring about a distant, unknown future either. It's a matter of common sense, economic survival, social responsibility. And that is exactly the conscious choice we make at ViTeS.

Sustainability is in **ViTeS' DNA**. Kringwinkel is a social employment initiative whose core activity is local reuse. Nevertheless, we made the effort to go the extra mile in 2024, with the **SDGs as our sustainability compass**.

Here are a few special highlights:

- Our new shop and HUB in Vilvoorde will run **entirely without fossil fuels**. There are also all kinds of other sustainable technologies installed on the site.
- Along with other Kringwinkels, we collected 5 tonnes of unsellable jeans for **HNST**. They will be broken down into fibres, combined with 5 tonnes of new fibres and turned into 2000 pairs of jeans for JBC.
- We started a project for reuse zones at the **recycling centres of Buda and Anderlecht**. That means that fewer items end up as waste: they get a second lease of life instead.
- We use **special collection boxes** to collect items for **campaigns against child poverty**. This results in improved visibility and a more targeted collection of items such as school satchels and backpacks.

We contribute to the following SDGs:



729 people from **59 different countries** of origin work at ViTeS.

Everyone is welcome – we don't discriminate!

You can do work experience and take training at ViTeS.

Specifically, this amounted to **6,316 hours of training** and **117,710 hours of coaching**.

Work together, grow together!

The **people who work at ViTeS** are 63.82% men and 36.18% women.

At **management level**, this proportion is in fact 54.55% men to 45.45% women. This is an atypical gender split compared to the regular labour market.

Kringwinkel offers many **different jobs**. We have a logistics department, sorting workshops, and shops with all the supporting services behind them.

ViTeS Kringwinkel stands for **local employment** in Flemish Brabant and Brussels.

Our challenges

- How do we find enough **suitable staff**, both manual workers and support staff?
- How can we raise awareness of our **core value of safety** as the primary responsibility of both the employer and the employee?



ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

We sold **4,415,644 items** in 11 Kringwinkels and 1 KiloMet. Textiles are still the most important products.

The new shop in Vilvoorde opened in September. The shop has a surface area of **1,400m²** and offers **1,000,000 reusable items** per year. It has far more products for sale than it used to have, and greater attention is paid to the shopping experience.

Reloved, the second-hand initiative for businesses (B2B) run jointly by several Kringwinkels, had a successful first year.

We worked with partners including Bol.com, Amazon and LolaLiza.

A new, national website and the further extension of the auction website www.uwkringding.be strengthened our online position.

ViTeS sold **6,393 items** to **2,568 customers** on www.uwkringding.be.

We continued to focus on the **activity of our Kringwinkels**. We downsized the greenery service, dismantled the Mivavil packaging department and transferred the energy scan project. All our staff now work for Kringwinkel.

Our challenges

- Our **uniqueness**; how do we reconcile the consumer's wishes with our unique offering that is determined by our donors?
- How can we occupy our place sustainably in the changing **second-hand market**?



ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

11,812,205 kg of collected items.

- 10,601 door-to-door collections
- 163,731 donors at our donation points

(Excluding collections from recycling centres and street containers.)

Extra collaborative projects in **Brussel**.

At four **Mobile Recycling Centres** in Schaarbeek, Anderlecht, Molenbeek en Sint-Agatha-Berchem, we collected **62,258 kg of goods**. Approximately half of these goods are suitable for reuse.

We negotiated with **BrusselNet** for the management of the Givekot, the reuse zone at the recycling parks in **Buda en Demets**. The effective start of this project was in 2025.

Our challenges

- How can we also give **lower-quality textiles** a second life?
- How can we guarantee the **profitability** of repairs and the sale of electrical appliances?

4,044 solar panels on our four largest shops injected a total of **253,930 kWh of green energy** back into the grid.

Water recuperation: our washing machine and dishwasher repair department runs entirely on recuperated water, and so do the toilet facilities at the four hubs.

Our priority is **reuse**, accounting for 3,793,421 kg. What cannot be reused is sorted for **recycling**: 6,776,560 kg in total in 2024.

Altogether, this **saved 9,575,918 kg of CO₂ emissions**.

That's a considerable ecological impact!



FIGHTING POVERTY

We are embedding the fight against poverty even more strongly into our activities. Whereas we used to concentrate mainly on homeless people and children, we are now extending our focus to young people.

Besides material assistance, we also want to commit to knowledge, with extra attention to language. Language – Dutch in particular – remains a significant springboard to work and independence.

Some of our campaigns for material assistance:

- We helped furnish bedsits for vulnerable young people who were moving into supported independent living.
- We donated clothing for young people to Fedasil refugee reception centres.
- We donated warm coats, sweaters and blankets to organisations that work with the homeless and people in precarious housing.

Some of our campaigns for language support:

- On 'Flanders Reads Day', we organised story time sessions for children at our shops where we read stories aloud.
- We read along actively with our staff from the Language Floor Project.
- We distributed children's books to families with fewer opportunities through poverty organisations.

Our challenges

- How can we continue to support social projects in a market where the **competition for collections** is steadily increasing?
- How can we keep the impact of partnerships **manageable** within our day-to-day activities?





Kringwinkel

ViTeS

Weverstraat 34, **Asse**

Ijsbergstraat 6, **Dilbeek**

Bergensesteenweg 65, **Halle**

Ijzerenmolenstraat 14, **Heverlee**

De Wandstraat 122, **Laken**

Diestsestraat 243, **Leuven**

Steenweg op Vilvoorde 193, **Opwijk**

Brusselsesteenweg 290, **Overijse**

Bergensesteenweg 704A, **Sint-Pieters-Leeuw**

Mechelsesteenweg 588D, **Vilvoorde**

Nieuwstraat 20, **Wespelaar**

KiloMet, Bergensesteenweg 95, Anderlecht

Online: www.uwkringding.be

Textile processing and electrical processing:

Leuvensesteenweg 354, Boortmeerbeek

More info?

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