Assessment of Information Systems impact in European organisations

FINDINGS

66

Digital footprint of a European employee represents 265 kg CO2e per year (220 working days). 66 trees would have to be planted per year to offset this.
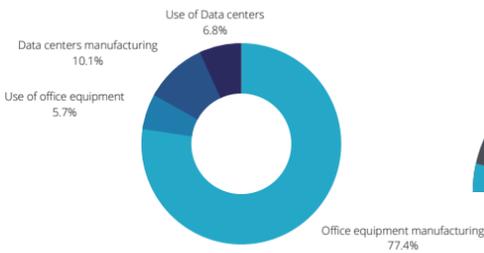
WENR STUDY

> In the age of ecological transition, the awareness of European organisations of the environmental impact of their Information Systems is paramount. With WeNR, we aim to offer a public, free tool with emission factors that are accessible to all.
>
> **JC CHAUSSAT -**
> **Président of INR**

WeNR takes the form of a file to be completed by each participating organisation using a specific template made available by INR. WeNR is free to use and accessible to organisations of all sizes, in order to allow as many people as possible to assess the footprint of its Information System using a personal report.

FOCUS ON EQUIPMENT

Use of Data centers
6.8%

Data centers manufacturing
10.1%

Use of office equipment
5.7%

Office equipment manufacturing
77.4%

7 %

34 %

Breakdown of GHGs by equipment area in their life cycle

Manufacturing of office equipment is responsible for 77% of the GHG emissions of organisations participating in the study. Overall, nearly 90% of GHG emissions come from manufacturing (office equipment and Data Centers combined).

### % of office equipment purchased is refurbished

Only 7% office equipment of the organisations studied is purchased refurbished. This constitutes a considerable area of progress for organisations wishing to reduce their environmental footprint.
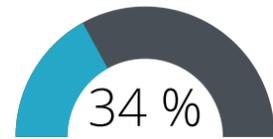
% of digital equipment given a second life

After use within organisation, on average 34% of office equipment is reconditioned or intended for a second life. This is also a lever for improvement to reduce the environmental impact of an IT park.
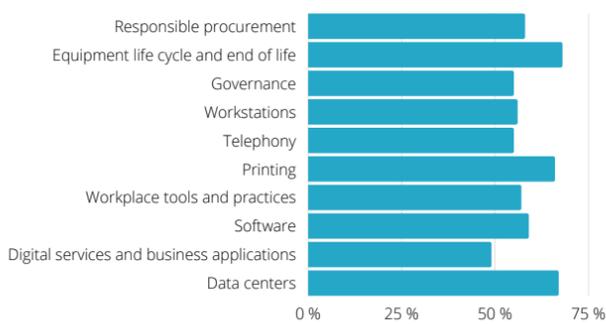
Life cycle of equipment (in years)
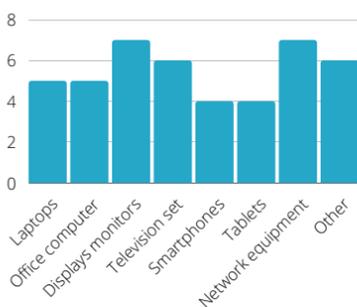
Displays monitors and network equipment stand out with a lifespan of 7 years. In the study, smartphones and tablets have a lifespan of 4 years (world average of 18 to 36 months depending on the country), which shows that organisations are committed to extending the lifespan of their equipment. The longevity of equipment is a very encouraging sign that needs to be generalised.

To pursue their efforts, organisations that are already well on their way to a Sustainable IT approach can implement key best practices such as equipment reuse and repurposing. This exercise can significantly reduce the environmental footprint of the Information System.

FOCUS ON MATURITY

10 sustainable IT maturity categories

- Responsible procurement
- Equipment life cycle and end of life
- Governance
- Workstations
- Telephony
- Printing
- Workplace tools and practices
- Software
- Digital services and business applications
- Data centers

0 % — 25 % — 50 % — 75 %

Overall, the participating entities show maturity on sustainable IT with an average score of 59%. Sustainable IT is expanding and leaving the environment of expert organisations. Less mature entities are taking up the issue and seeking from the start of the implementation of their sustainable IT approach to assess the footprint linked to their Information System. The deployment of sustainable IT approaches democratisation and the organisations capacity to work to put in place good practices to reduce the social and environmental footprint of their Information System play a determining role and is very encouraging.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Develop a Sustainable IT Strategy

Develop a Sustainable IT strategy based on the measurement of the environmental footprint of the Information System with WeNR. Deploying the Sustainable IT approach can reduce the environmental impact of the information system by 10 to 20%.

Extending equipment life

From the time of purchase, select equipment that is easy to repair and to upgrade within the organisation or outside: second life, reconditioning, etc.
It is essential to extend the life of equipment to reduce its environmental footprint.

Promote Eco-design of digital services

While the environmental footprint of equipment is primarily a result of manufacturing, use will have a direct impact on the lifespan. Thus, designing digital services that are more virtuous from an environmental, social and economic point of view will have a direct impact on the amount of equipment consumed by the organisation.