

TEXTILE TRANSPARENCY REPORT

Collection and distribution of textiles in 2018



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1 Sorting centres in Europe

Reporting forms have this year been received from 11 sorting centres (or suppliers of used textiles) that are used by UFF and the Humana People to People organisations. These sorting centres are:

Receivers	Country	Short name used in figures
Baltic Textile Trading	Belgium	BTT Belgium
Bultex	Bulgaria	Bultex Bulgaria
One World Clothes Trade Bulgaria	Bulgaria	OWCT Bulgaria
Humana Sorteerimiskeskus OÜ	Estonia	HPP Estonia
Lithuania LT	Lithuania	HPP Lithuania
Baltic Textile Trading LLC FZC	Oman	BTT Oman
Sylwia Samulak	Poland	Samulak Poland
HPP Slovakia s.r.o.	Slovakia	HPP Slovakia
Textile House for EURO TRADE	Slovakia	TH Slovakia
Uhendus Humana Estonia Mersin	Turkey	HPP Turkey
Humana Kleidersammlung	Germany	HPP Germany

The reports received from the sorting centres are mostly satisfactory, however there are uncertainties in a few areas. These are mostly regarding:

1. The amount of textile waste that arises during sorting,
2. Which treatment methods the waste is sent to, and
3. The distribution between clothes sold for re-wear, and clothes for material recycling by some customers.

The uncertainties that have not been revealed during the reporting period represent very marginal amounts.

2 Collected textiles distributed to sorting centres

In total, Humana Sweden collected and exported 2 303 tonnes of used textiles in 2018. Sorting centres that received less than 100 tonnes in the collection period (2018) were not required to report on these amounts. In 2018, 7 customers received less than 100 tonnes of used textiles. Table 1 shows that Mepex received reporting forms that cover 83.6 % of the amount collected and exported from Humana Sweden.

Table 1 – Overview of the flow of used textiles from Humana Sweden, and reported amounts received at sorting centres - 2018

	Reported amounts sent from Humana Sweden (tonnes)	Unreported amounts from sorting centres (tonnes)
< 100 tonnes (not required to report)	255	255 (11,1 %)
> 100 tonnes	2 048	122 (5,3 %)
Total	2 303	377 (16,4 %)

Figure 1 shows where used textiles from Humana Sweden are sent for sorting. 41.1 % of the collected textiles are exported to Estonia. The results for Humana Sweden will therefore to a significant extent be influenced by where HPP Estonia sends the textiles they receive. 26.4 % is sent to OWCT Bulgaria followed by 16.2 % to HPP Slovakia. Before export, 282 tonnes of waste is removed from the collected amounts (10.9 % of the total collected amount of textiles, not included in the chart). Out of these 282 tonnes, 70 tonnes are items eligible for re-use. The results in this report are based on the reported amounts (83.6 %).

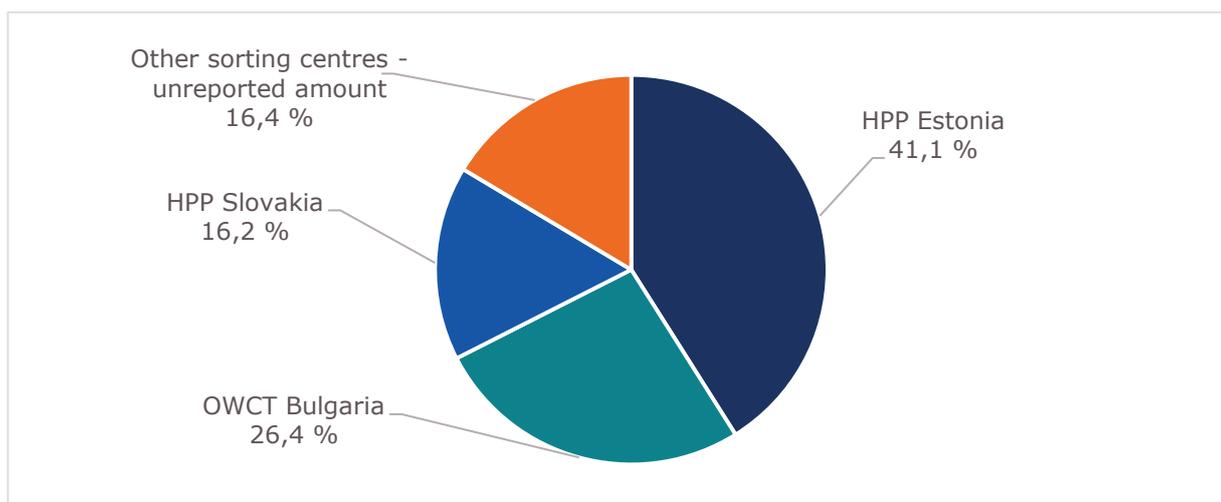


Figure 1 – Distribution of Swedish textiles sent to sorting centres - 2018

Swedish textiles only represent a small share of the total amount of incoming textiles at the 3 sorting centres used by Humana Sweden (Figure 2). The highest concentration of Swedish textiles is found in HPP Estonia where they represent 8.6 % of the incoming textiles. Swedish textiles represent a small share of the total amount of received textiles at all sorting centres. The results from these sorting centres will therefore largely represent textiles collected in other countries and will to a lesser extent represent the true qualities of the textiles collected in Sweden.

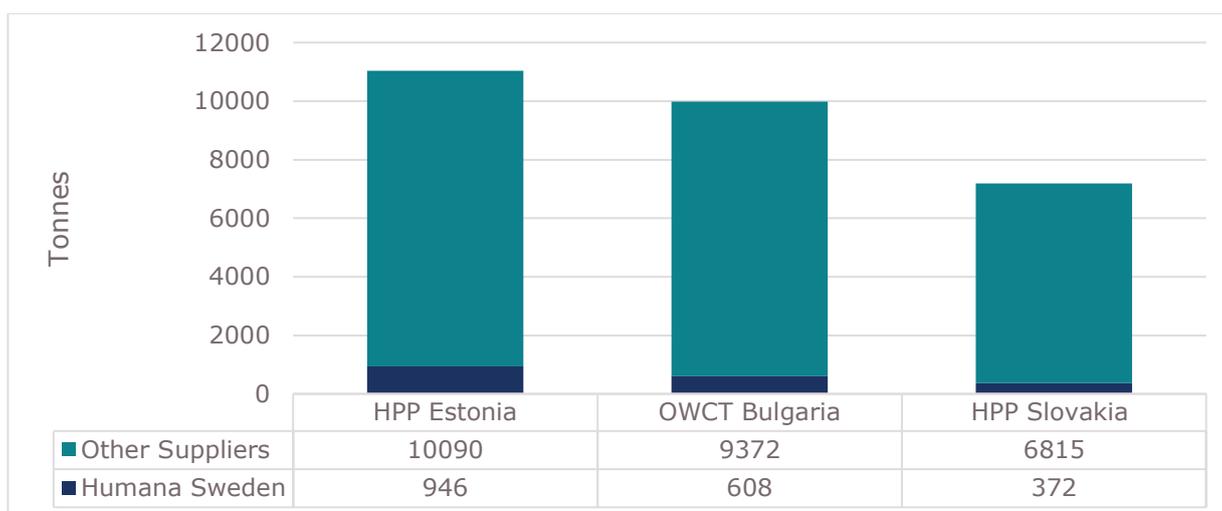


Figure 2 – Share of textiles received from Humana Sweden at sorting centres - 2018

3 Results from the collection of textiles by Humana Sweden

The sorting centres do not have specific information on the sales/distribution of textiles collected by UFF-Humana as these textiles are mixed with those amounts collected by other organisations. This is done to achieve a desired quality of the sorted textiles. We therefore assume that textiles collected in different countries have the same sales/distribution patterns from the various sorting centres. The figures for the amount of textiles sold from the various sorting centres have been weighted in the calculation of UFF-Humana’s results based on the proportion of Swedish textiles sent to the sorting centre.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of Swedish textiles, textile waste and other waste from the sorting centres that receive used textiles from Humana Sweden. Swedish textiles are mainly sold for re-wear (67.3 %) or material recycling (15.3 %). 2.3 % of the collected material is textile waste, while 15.1 % is other waste. The waste (both textile and other waste) is sent to incineration with energy recovery (42.8 %), landfill (29.7 %), material recycling (18.3 %) and incineration without energy recovery (9.3 %). The waste that is removed from the collected items in Sweden before export is included in these numbers.

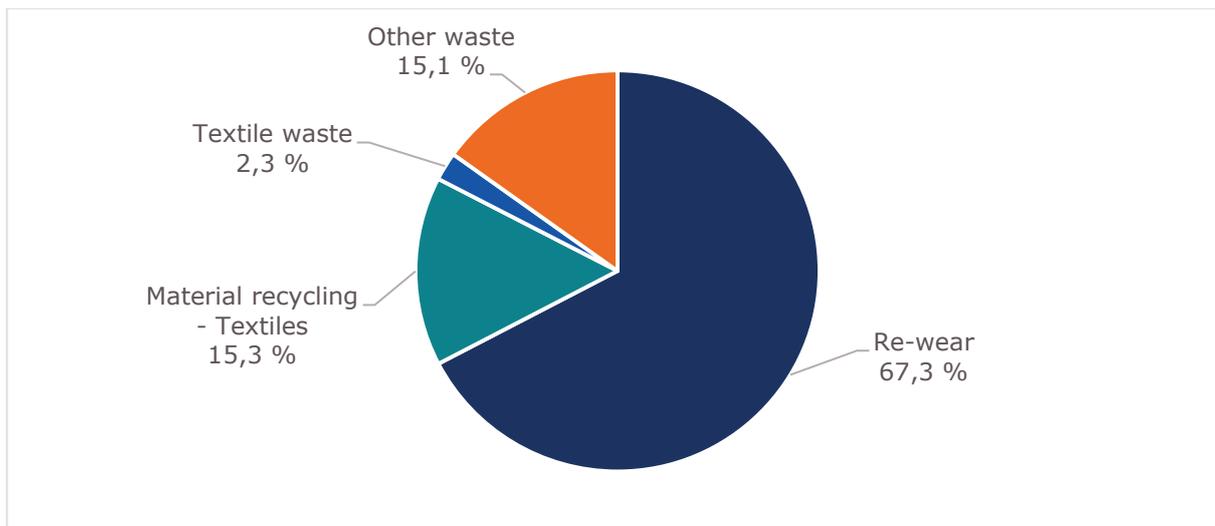


Figure 3 – Distribution of collected textiles and waste - 2018

Included in the segment 're-use' are clothes and other textiles such as bed linen, towels, shoes and other accessories such as belts and hats etc. Roughly 90 % of the re-use segment consists of clothing.

At some sorting centres there are signs indicating that production waste from canteens and break rooms is mixed together with waste generated through the sorting of received textiles. How much this share constitutes of the total waste produced is unknown, but it is assumed that this share is too small to significantly alter the results. There is larger uncertainty tied to the amount of textile waste. Textile waste is not separated from other, non-recyclable waste, so the calculation of this amount is undertaken by estimating the share of textiles waste in this fraction. Because of the increased focus on textile waste over the last couple of years, more sorting centres now perform analyses of the waste to calculate the share of textile waste on a more accurate level.

A comparison between the results from 2016-2018 is shown in Figure 4. The figure indicates that there has been a significant drop in the amount of textiles sold for re-wear, and an increase in other waste. The reason for this is two-fold. There has been an increase in the amount of waste at many sorting centres in 2018. Waste removed before export was also no included in the calculation for previous years but is now included in the 'other waste' category. If the waste removed before export is not included, the amount sold for re-wear would be **73.7 %**.

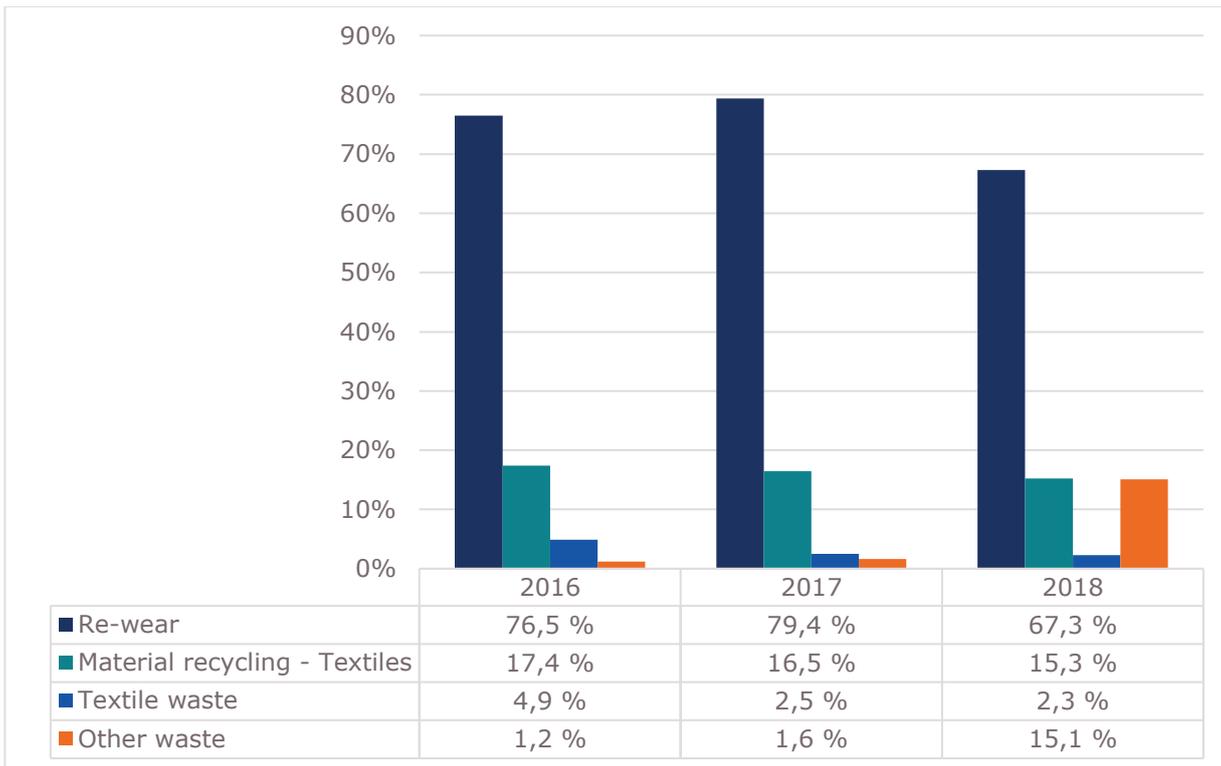


Figure 4 – Comparison between the distribution of used textiles from 2016-2018.

The distribution of sorted textiles (originally collected by Humana Sweden) is displayed in the figures below. A large portion is sent to countries in Europe (45.9 %), however, large amounts are also sent to Asia and Africa. Only 80 tonnes are sent to the Nordic countries for re-use. The remaining amount of this share is waste disposed of in Sweden before export (292 tonnes). Africa receives textiles only for re-use, while textiles for material recycling are shared between Europe and Asia. Most of the waste is sent for treatment in Europe.

The amount of textile waste has decreased at some sorting centres as more textiles are sent to the Middle East for re-use where demand has increased, even those textiles of poor quality.

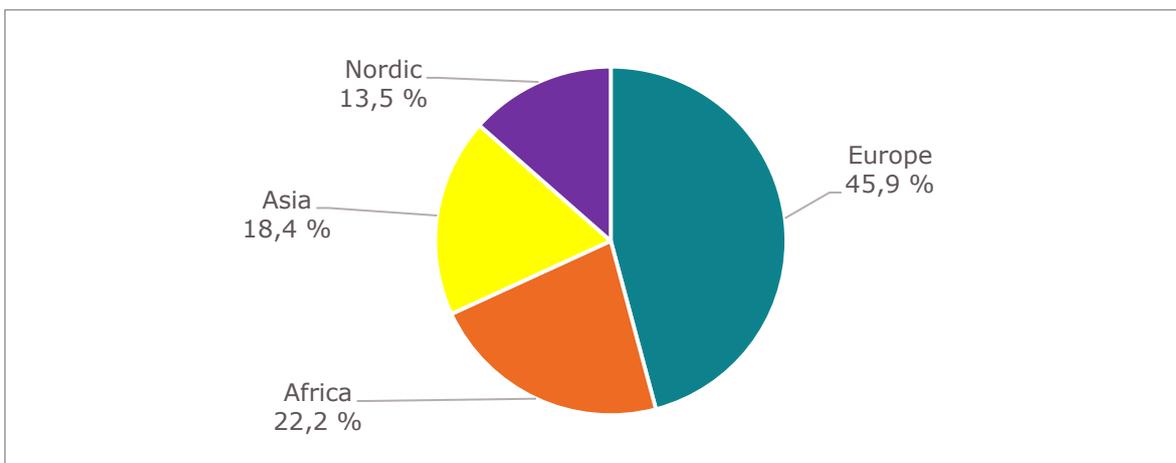


Figure 5 – Recipient continents of collected textiles and waste - 2018

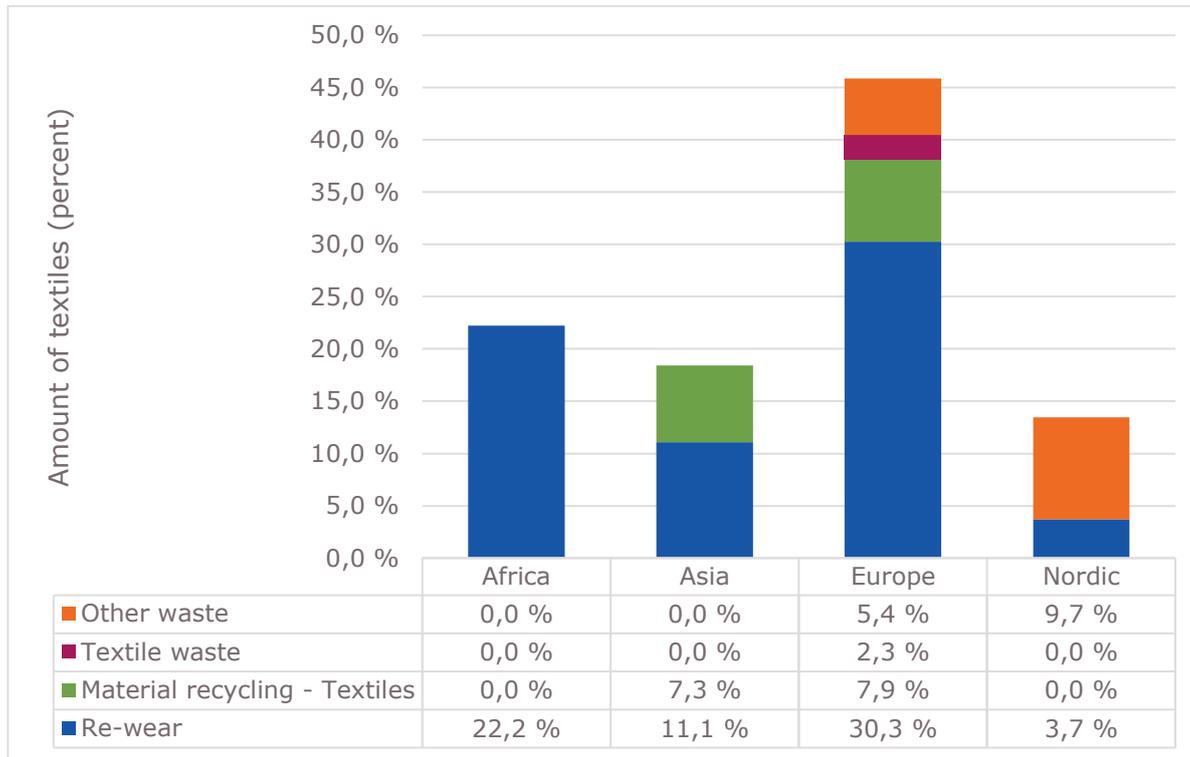


Figure 6 – Recipient continents of collected textiles and waste - 2018